

UNCLE CHARLIE'S

Fables

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ALL NEW AND ORIGINAL STORIES



CHARLES
BIRO





WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

IF IT'S ABOUT PIRATES, I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF A STORY YOU TELL US, UNCLE CHARLIE!

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT'S ABOUT EITHER, AS LONG AS IT'S ABOUT A PRINCE AND PRINCESS!

NEITHER DO I! JUST MAKE SURE IT HAS A HAPPY ENDING PLEASE!

AND BE SURE IT'S SAD AND FUNNY IN SPOTS, TOO!

HMM... PIRATES, A PRINCE AND PRINCESS; A HAPPY ENDING, SAD AND FUNNY! THAT'S A BIG ORDER! WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!



Peter Pester's Wonderful Secret

I COULD DEFEAT YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS, BOY!

JUST REMEMBER THAT THE LOSER MUST SURRENDER HIS ENTIRE SHIP, BARRACUDA!

THE BARRACUDA IS TALL. HE IS STRONG. HE IS A CHAMPION DUELIST. PETER PESTER IS SMALL. PETER PESTER IS A BOY. PETER PESTER IS NOT A SWORDSMAN.

I GUESS YOU MEAN PETER WILL LOSE!



ILLUSTRATED by H. Mankin

A cozy corner and a good book will change the dreariest and dullest day into a sunburst of adventure, but no printed words, however beautiful, will ever compare to the stories your mother tells you. Picture her on your bedside in your warm room and hear her lovely voice as she begins the first of these four wonderful stories...

(UNCLE) CHARLIE BIRO

Meanwhile...

WHY DO YOU APPEAR SO SAD, PETER?

I'M TIRED OF BEING THE KING'S BAKER! YES, GINGER PEACHY, I LONG FOR A LIFE OF ADVENTURE—AND GLORY!

IT IS FINE TO HAVE EXCITEMENT IT IS DESIRABLE TO TRAVEL TO FAR DISTANT LANDS. IT IS GOOD TO BE ADMIRER FOR FEATS OF DARING.

YAK YAKETY AGREES!

LOOK, KING GROUSE! SEE HOW BATTERED YOUR BEST MERCHANT SHIP IS!

NOT AGAIN! THIS CAPTAIN IS OUR BEST! THEY PROBABLY RAN AFOWL OF A STORM! ZOUNDS! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL THE RICHES HE HAS BROUGHT!

GREAT GOBLINS! WHAT HAS BEFALLEN YOU, CAPTAIN?

THE PIRATE, BARRACUDA, AGAIN, YOUR MAJESTY! HE OVERTOOK US IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT, OVERWHELMED MY CREW AND MADE OFF WITH OUR ENTIRE CARGO!

BLAST HIM! THIS IS THE THIRD SHIP THAT BLACKHEARTED PIRATE HAS ATTACKED! HE HAS DEFEATED ALL MY SAILORS AND STOLEN MY RICHEST CARGOES! THIS MUST BE STOPPED!

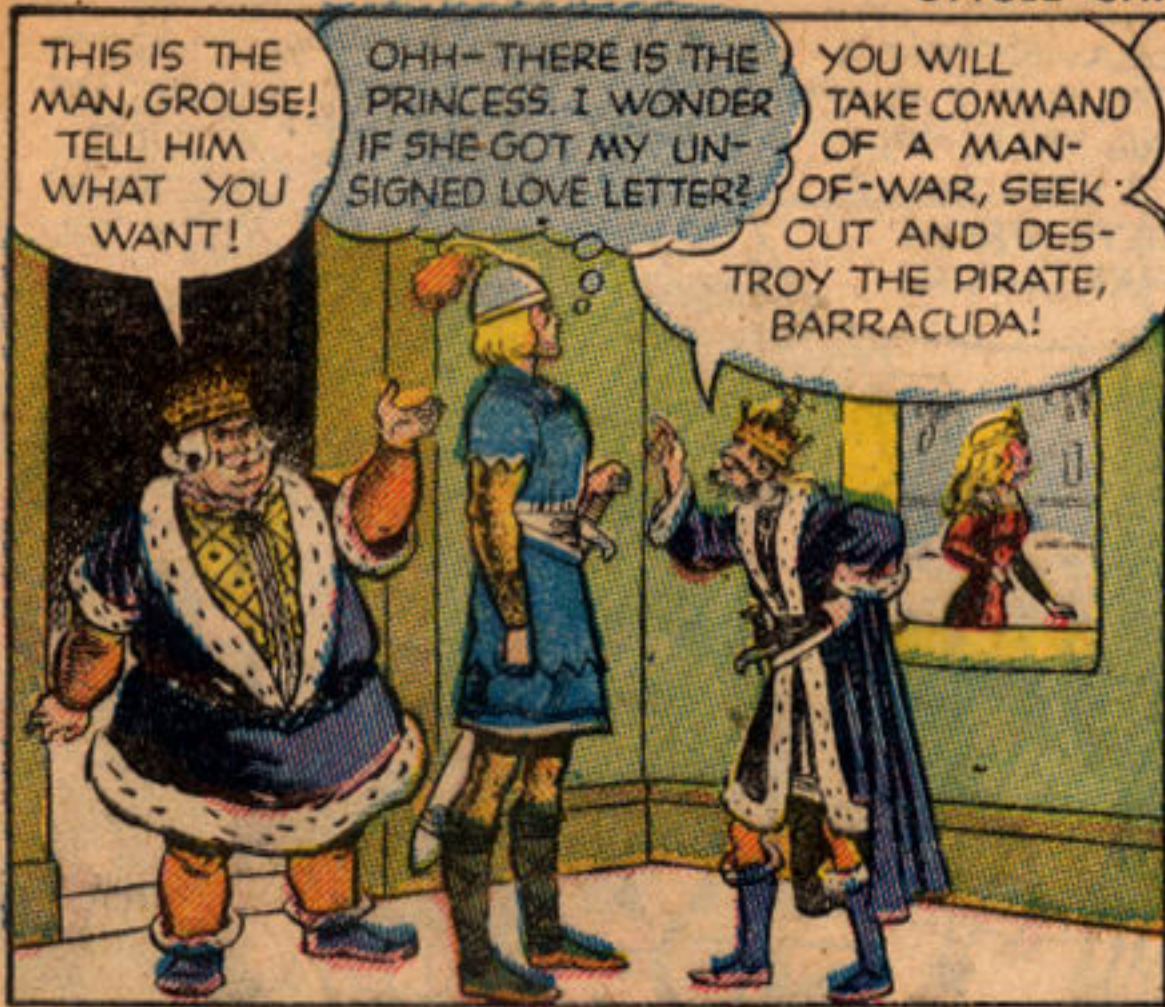
COME, BARON! WE ARE GOING TO GLADIOLA! I'LL ENLIST THE AID OF MY BROTHER, ROLLY!

HO, THERE, ROLLY! I COME TO YOU WITH A PROBLEM!

WELCOME, BROTHER GROUSE! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE? HAS YOUR TYRANNY FINALLY CAUSED YOUR LOYAL, STARVING SUBJECTS TO REBEL?

NO, IT'S THAT RUTHLESS PIRATE, BARRACUDA! MY BUNGLING CAPTAINS SEEM POWERLESS TO STOP HIM, AND HE HAS ROBBED THREE OF MY BEST VESSELS! CAN YOU GIVE ME A MAN BRAVE ENOUGH TO FACE HIM?

I KNOW JUST THE MAN! A FEARLESS KNIGHT—HUGO LASAR, BY NAME! GUARD! GO FETCH LASAR AT ONCE!



THIS IS THE MAN, GROUSE! TELL HIM WHAT YOU WANT!

OHH— THERE IS THE PRINCESS. I WONDER IF SHE GOT MY UNSIGNED LOVE LETTER?

YOU WILL TAKE COMMAND OF A MAN-OF-WAR, SEEK OUT AND DESTROY THE PIRATE, BARRACUDA!

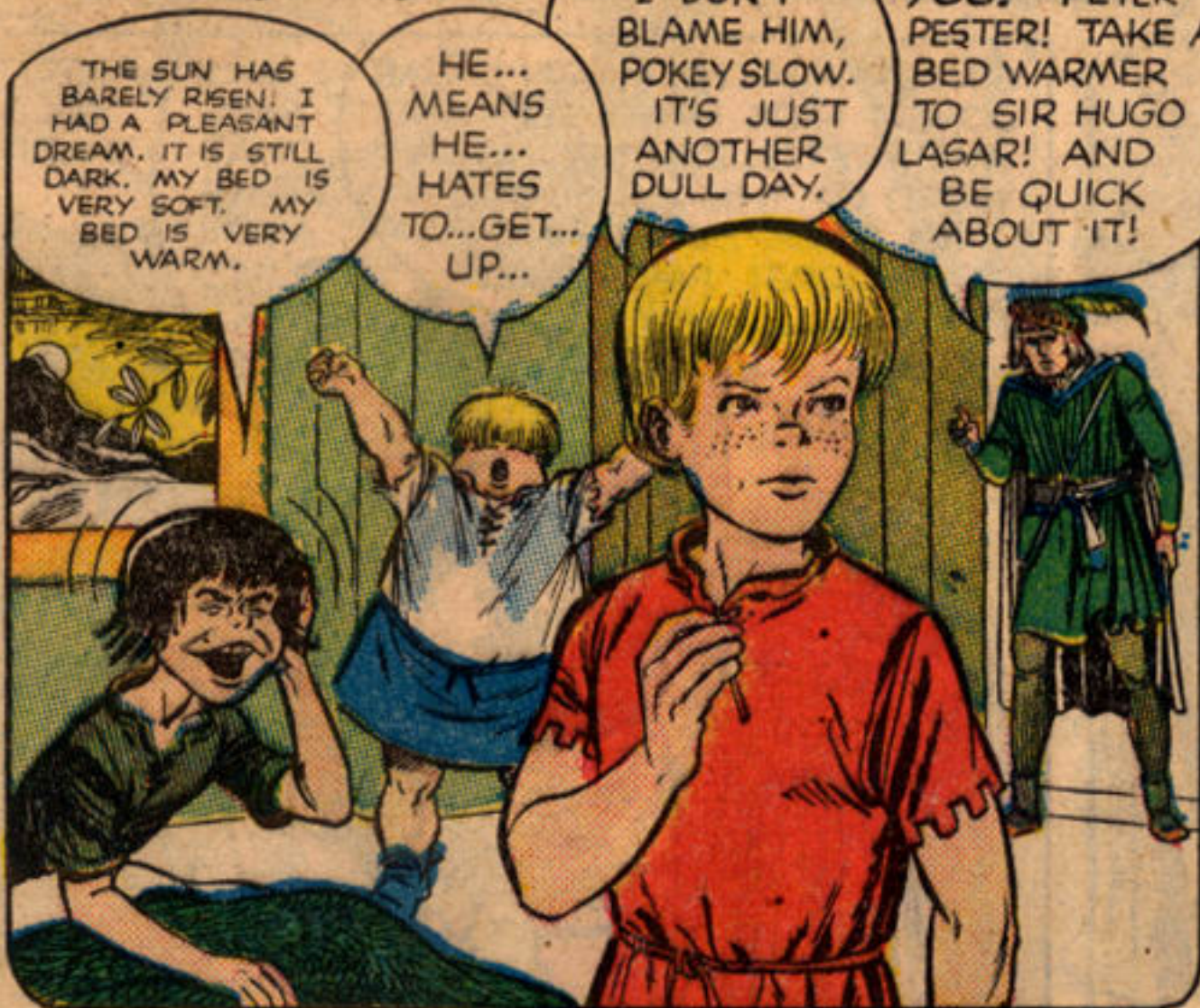
DO YOU HEAR, LASAR?

I WOULD KILL DRAGONS TO WIN A SMILE FROM THE PRINCESS!

ER...YES, MY KING! THIS IS A GREAT HONOR! I SHALL LEAVE WITH THE FIRST ROOSTER'S CROW!



The following morning...



THE SUN HAS BARELY RISEN! I HAD A PLEASANT DREAM. IT IS STILL DARK. MY BED IS VERY SOFT. MY BED IS VERY WARM.

HE... MEANS HE... HATES TO...GET... UP...

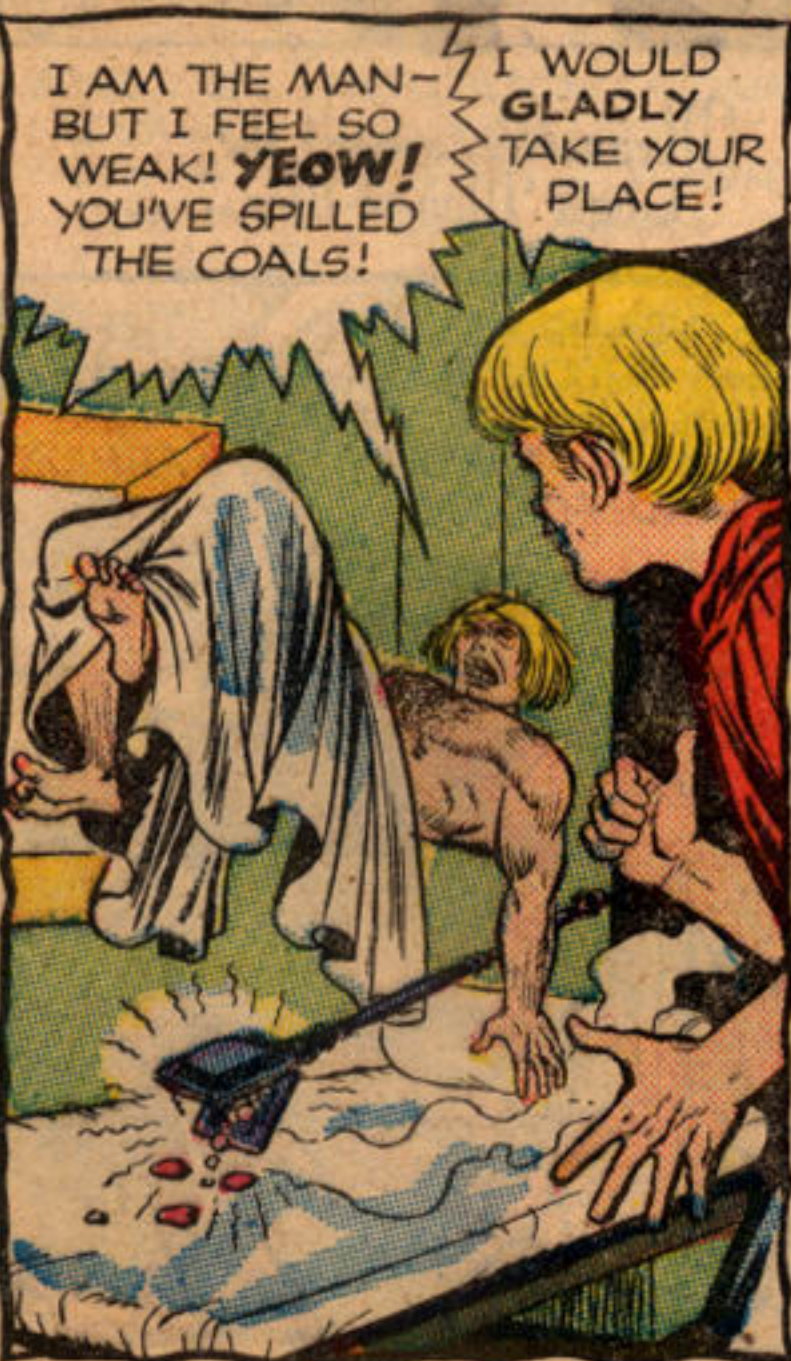
I DON'T BLAME HIM, POKEY SLOW. IT'S JUST ANOTHER DULL DAY.

YOU! PETER PESTER! TAKE A BED WARMER TO SIR HUGO LASAR! AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!



OOH, PERHAPS THAT WILL EASE MY PAIN! I MUST BE READY TO LEAVE WITHIN THE HOUR!

LEAVE? THEN YOU ARE THE MAN BEING SENT TO CAPTURE THE BARRACUDA! HOW I ENVY YOU!



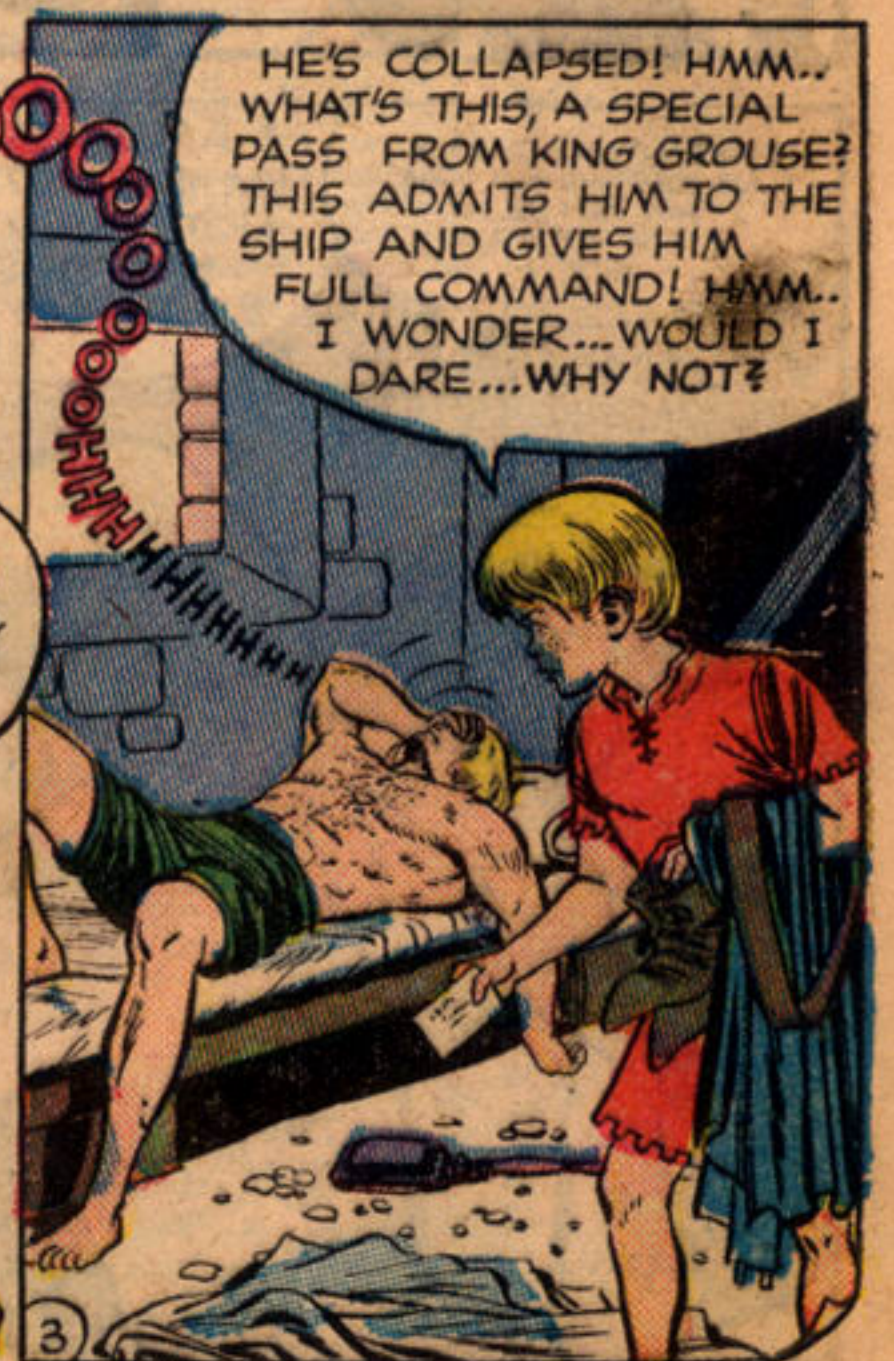
I AM THE MAN— BUT I FEEL SO WEAK! YEOW! YOU'VE SPILLED THE COALS!

I WOULD GLADLY TAKE YOUR PLACE!



YOU CLUMSY OAF! PICK THOSE COALS UP AND GET OUT! AM I NOT SICK ENOUGH?

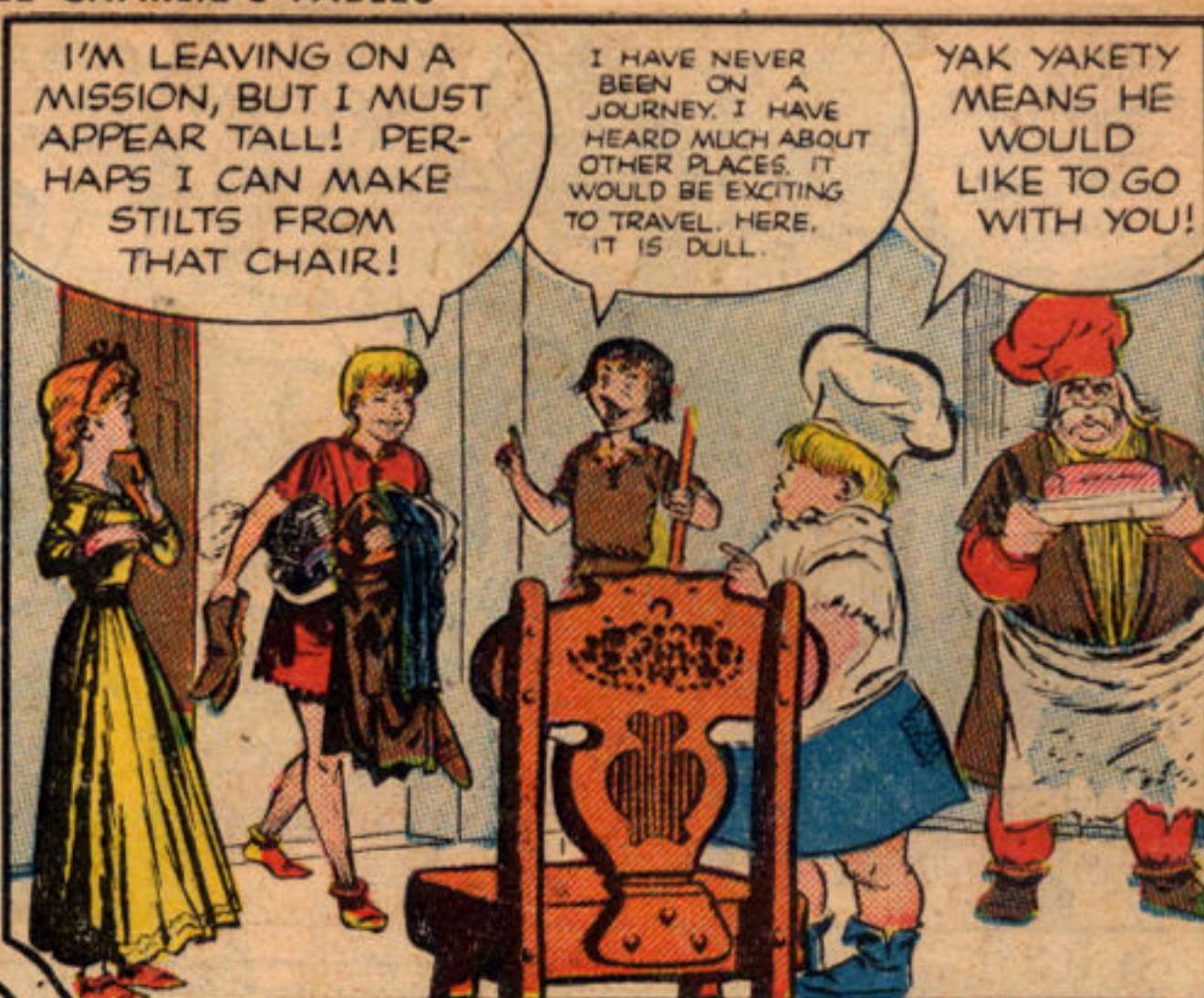
YOU ARE TOO ILL TO GO, ARE YOU NOT?



HE'S COLLAPSED! HMM... WHAT'S THIS, A SPECIAL PASS FROM KING GROUSE? THIS ADMITS HIM TO THE SHIP AND GIVES HIM FULL COMMAND! HMM... I WONDER... WOULD I DARE... WHY NOT?



Lasar: I have taken your clothes and the king's pass and will fulfill your mission. Go to the bakery, and they will hide you until I return.
Peter Pester



I'M LEAVING ON A MISSION, BUT I MUST APPEAR TALL! PERHAPS I CAN MAKE STILTS FROM THAT CHAIR!

I HAVE NEVER BEEN ON A JOURNEY. I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT OTHER PLACES. IT WOULD BE EXCITING TO TRAVEL. HERE, IT IS DULL.

YAK YAKETY MEANS HE WOULD LIKE TO GO WITH YOU!



I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU BOTH, MY FRIENDS, BUT ONLY ONE MAN I' EXPECTED ON THE SHIP! HOW IS THIS? NO ONE WILL GUESS I'M NOT THE KING'S MOST GALLANT KNIGHT!

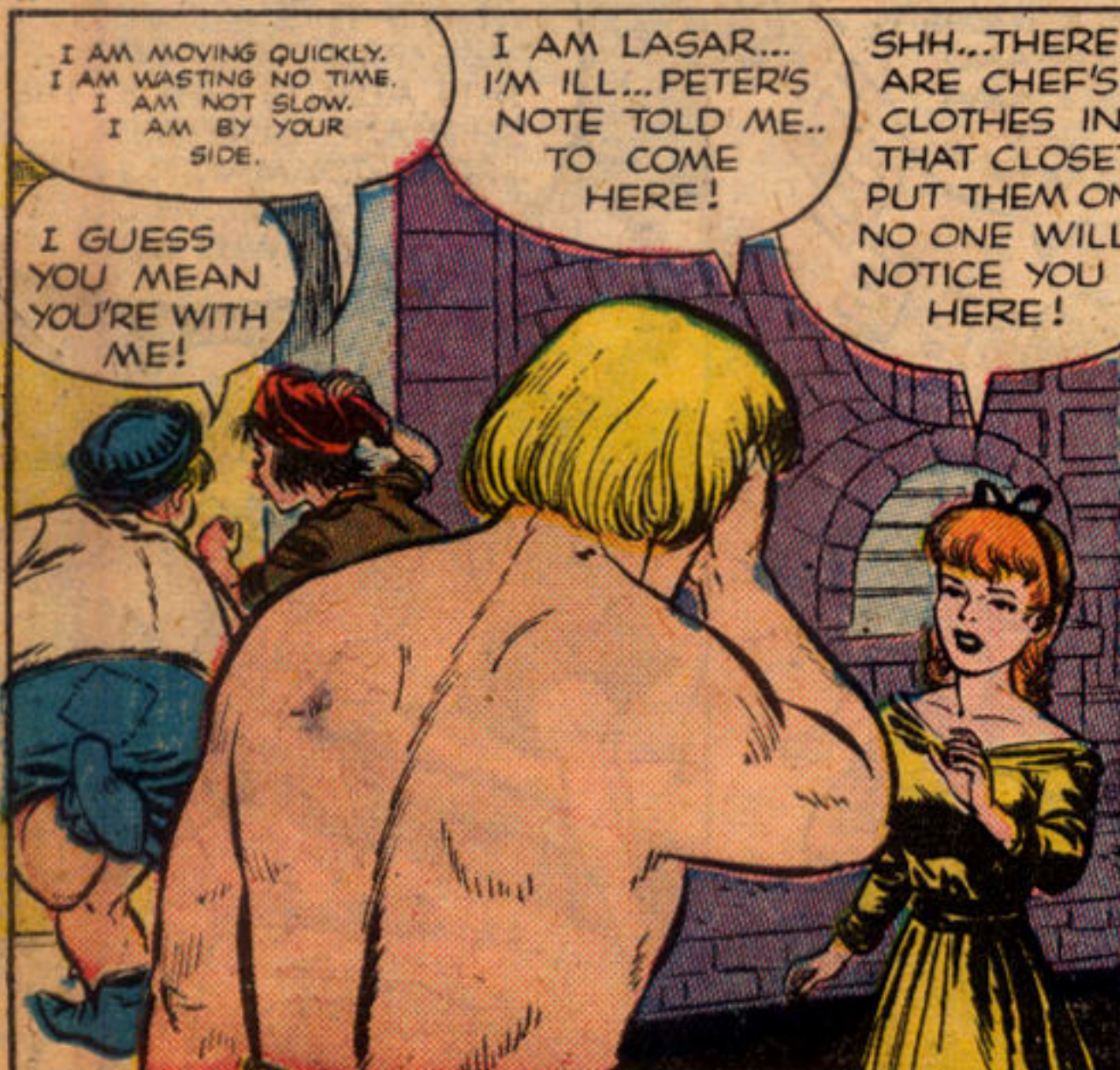
YOU ARE SO HANDSOME, PETER!



GINGER PEACHY, WHEN LASAR COMES HIDE HIM WELL! AND, MR. PRETZELBENDER, NOT A WORD OF THIS OR YOU'LL BE BACK SCRUBBING FLOORS! FAREWELL!

I WILL SEE THAT HE IS NOT FOUND, PETER!

PSST! YAK YAKETY ...



I AM MOVING QUICKLY. I AM WASTING NO TIME. I AM NOT SLOW. I AM BY YOUR SIDE.

I AM LASAR... I'M ILL... PETER'S NOTE TOLD ME.. TO COME HERE!

SHH...THERE ARE CHEF'S CLOTHES IN THAT CLOSET! PUT THEM ON- NO ONE WILL NOTICE YOU HERE!

I GUESS YOU MEAN YOU'RE WITH ME!



Meanwhile, aboard the king's Man-of-War...

THIRTY YEARS AT SEA... AND KING GROUSE PUTS A LANDLUBBER IN COMMAND OF MY SHIP! I WON'T STAND FOR IT!

THE KING'S FANCY WARRIOR HAS ARRIVED, CAPTAIN!

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



WHAT HO, CAPTAIN! HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN A KNIGHT BEFORE? I'VE COME TO COMMAND THIS SHIP. PREPARE TO CAST OFF!

SO YOU'RE HUGO LASAR! NOW I KNOW KING GROUSE IS CRACKED.



I WANT THIS VESSEL MORE SHIPSHAPE, CAPTAIN. SHARPEN YOUR SWORDS AND PREPARE THE CANNONS! WE WILL BE READY FOR THE BARRACUDA!

ALL RIGHT, MEN! DO AS LASAR SAYS!

THIS PIPSQUEEK WILL GO TOO FAR!



KEEP A SHARP WATCH! WE'RE NEARING THE BARRACUDA'S WATERS! I'M GOING BELOW FOR SUPPER! CALL ME IF ANYTHING IS SIGHTED!

WHEN HE LEARNS WE ARE HERE PETER'S EYES WILL WIDEN. PETER'S MOUTH WILL DROP. PETER WILL JUMP FROM HIS BOOTS!

YOU MEAN... HE'LL BE... SURPRISED!



HE HAS GONE TO HIS CABIN... NOW IS THE TIME!

HE HAS A FEARFUL REPUTATION, CAPTAIN! THEY SAY HE ONCE KILLED THIRTY MEN IN A SINGLE BATTLE!

THAT'S A LIE! YOU COWARDS MAY STAY, BUT I AM GOING!

WE MUST WARN PETER!



POKEY! YAK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE CAPTAIN IS ANGRY. THE MEN LISTEN TO HIM. THE MEN ARE PICKING UP THEIR SWORDS! THEY ARE LEAVING THE FOY'S/LE! THEY ARE WALKING ON THE DECK!

HE MEANS... THEY ARE... COMING... TO KILL YOU!



BREATHE YOUR LAST, LASAR! WE WILL NOT HAVE A BEARDLESS YOUTH RUNNING OUR SHIP!

COME AHEAD, CAPTAIN! I AM READY!



FIRST, I WILL CUT YOU DOWN TO SIZE!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!

...IT IS...SUPER-NATURAL! HIS LEGS ARE CUT.. STILL HE LAUGHS!

H..HE IS POSSESSED OF THE DEVIL!

WHACK!



I WILL NOT BE FOOLED BY YOUR TRICKERY! THIS WILL SILENCE YOUR CHATTERING TONGUE!

I LAUGH AT YOU, HAIRY ONE!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?

OWW!



THROW THIS MUTINEER IN IRONS! NO ONE SHALL CHALLENGE MY COMMAND OF THIS SHIP!

PRINCESS DENISE IS NOT HERE. PRINCESS DENISE LIKES BRAVE PEOPLE. PRINCESS DENISE WOULD LIKE PETER.

I GUESS I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

YES, SIR!

Meanwhile, back at the palace..



WHY, WHERE ARE PETER AND HIS FRIENDS?

TH..THEY'VE GONE TO VISIT PETER'S FATHER! CAN I HELP YOU, PRINCESS DENISE?



I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU THINK I'M TRYING TO TAKE PETER FROM YOU, BUT THAT IS NOT TRUE! I BELIEVE YOU ARE HIDING HIM... OHH! WHO ARE YOU?

ER...UH.. HELLO, PRINCESS!



I AM IN TROUBLE WITH YOUR FATHER, THE KING! PLEASE DO NOT TELL HIM YOU'VE SEEN ME!

WHY SHOULD I...I DON'T KNOW YOU, BUT WILL YOU DO ONE THING FOR ME IN RETURN?

Back aboard the Man-of-War...

A HANDSOME KNIGHT IS IN LOVE WITH ME, AND I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING BEAUTIFUL... BUT UNSIGNED LOVE LETTERS! COULD YOU DISCOVER WHO HE IS?

IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER THAT IT IS I...

I WILL DO MY BEST, PRINCESS!

IF YOU PROMISE TO OBEY MY ORDERS, CAPTAIN, I WILL HAVE YOUR IRONS REMOVED! DO YOU AGREE?

YOU ARE BUT A BOY, LASAR, BUT YOU HAVE WON OUR RESPECT! I WILL OBEY!

SHIP AHOY! THE CRIMSON DOLPHIN OFF THE PORT BOW!

IT'S THE BARRACUDA! MAN THE CANNONS, BUT HOLD FIRE UNTIL I SIGNAL! PERHAPS WE CAN CAPTURE HIM WITHOUT A BATTLE!

HE IS TREACHEROUS, LASAR! DO NOT TRUST HIM!

And, on the pirate ship...

CURSES! A MAN-OF-WAR! SHE WILL CARRY NO CARGO!

YOU ARE WRONG, FOOL! THEY ARE AFRAID TO TRANSPORT GOLD ON ANY BUT AN ARMED SHIP! SHE MAY CARRY VAST RICHES—DRAW CLOSER!

THE MEN ARE READY, LASAR! SHALL I HAVE THEM OPEN FIRE?

NO! WHY SHOULD WE SUFFER EVEN ONE HIT? TAKE THIS MEGAPHONE AND TELL THEM WHAT I SAY!

AHOY, ON THE DOLPHIN! WE WOULDST PARLEY WITH THEE!

AGREED! COME ALONGSIDE AND SAY WHAT YOU WILL!

WE CAN SETTLE THIS WITHOUT BLOODSHED, BARRACUDA! I PROPOSE A DUEL BETWEEN YOU AND ME—THE LOSER TO SURRENDER HIS ENTIRE SHIP! IF YOU AGREE, HAVE YOUR MEN LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS, AND I WILL COME ABOARD!

HA, HA, HA! YOU ARE BUT A BOY! COME, YOU HAVE A FIGHT!

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES

THE BARRACUDA IS VERY BIG. HE IS STRONG. HE IS A CHAMPION DUELIST HE HAS KILLED MANY MEN. HE IS VERY DANGEROUS!

YAK MEANS... HE DOESN'T... THINK... YOU HAVE A... CHANCE... AND I MUST AGREE!

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! JUST GET ME SOME PEPPER AND A CLOTH FILLED WITH PISTOL PELLETS AND HURRY!

WELCOME ABOARD OUR HUMBLE SHIP! SINCE I AM HOST, YOU MAY CHOOSE THE WEAPONS!

THE SWORDS SUIT ME, BARRACUDA!

A SWORD IS HARDLY NECESSARY! I COULD TEAR YOU APART WITH MY BARE HANDS!

HAVE SOME PEPPER TO GO WITH ALL THAT CONFIDENCE!

A-AH-UH-CHOO! I CANNOT SEE!

THEN, INDEED, YOUR SWORD IS WORTHLESS TO YOU!

THE BOY HAS DISARMED HIM! QUICK! OUR WEAPONS!

AH-CHOO!

HO! BACK AWAY, ROGUES! REMEMBER OUR AGREEMENT!

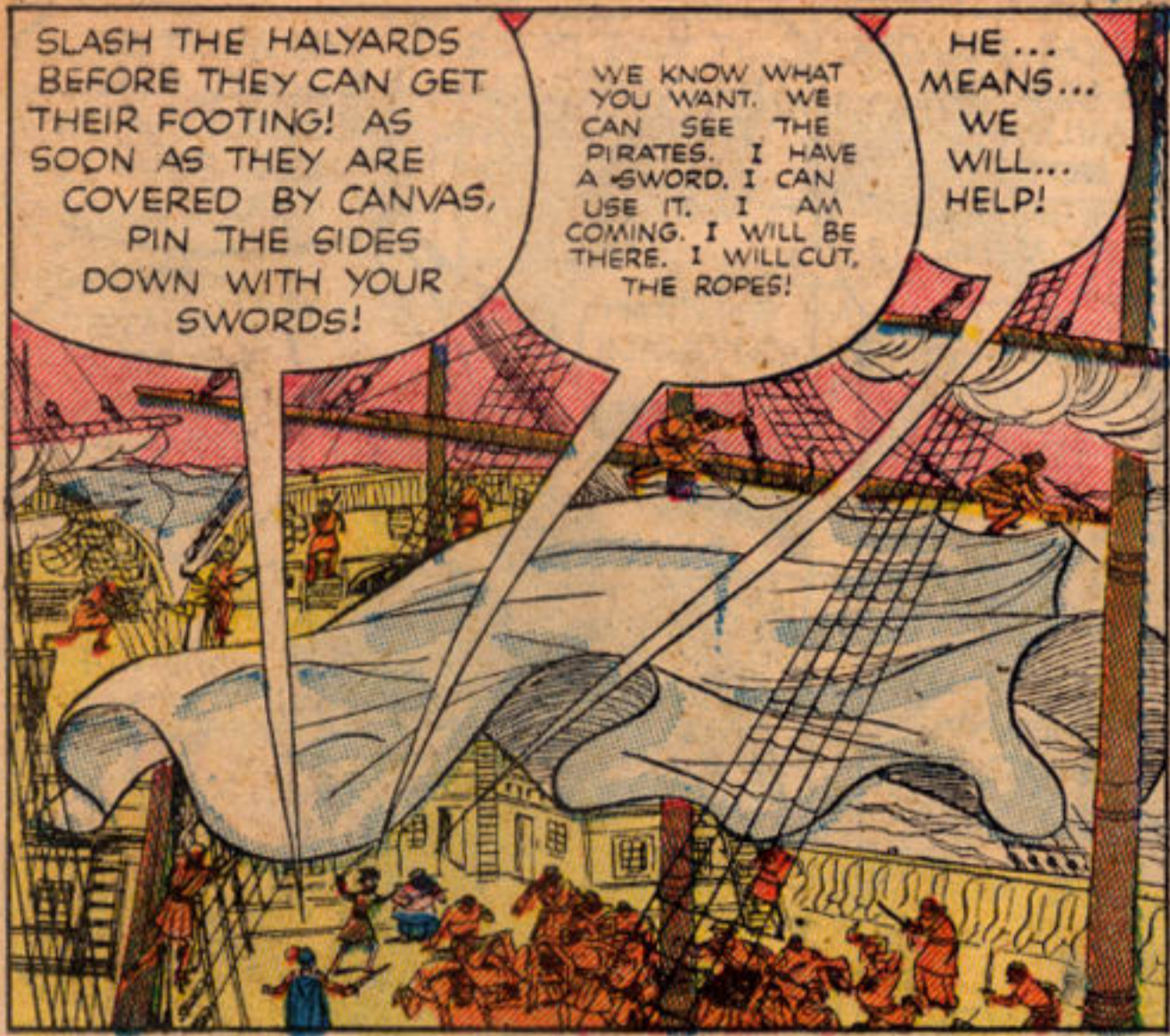
WE WILL NOT SURRENDER OUR SHIP, LAD! GRAB HIM, MATES... THEN WE'LL STORM THE MAN-OF-WAR!

THEY ARE SKIDDING ON PISTOL PELLETS!

CUT THEIR MAIN SAIL, MEN!

I CANNOT STAND!

MY FEET ARE BEWITCHED!



SLASH THE HALYARDS BEFORE THEY CAN GET THEIR FOOTING! AS SOON AS THEY ARE COVERED BY CANVAS, PIN THE SIDES DOWN WITH YOUR SWORDS!

WE KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. WE CAN SEE THE PIRATES. I HAVE A SWORD. I CAN USE IT. I AM COMING. I WILL BE THERE. I WILL CUT THE ROPES!

HE... MEANS... WE WILL... HELP!



GOOD WORK, MEN! IF THEY TRY TO COME OUT, CLUB THEM! NOW LET US SET SAIL FOR HOME!

THIS HAS BEEN A GLORIOUS DAY. THIS HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE. THE KING WILL BE PLEASED. THE PEOPLE WILL CHEER. PETER HAS DONE WELL. THE BARRACUDA IS CAPTURED.

YOU WILL... BE A HERO, PETER!



THERE IS WONDERFUL NEWS! CAPTAIN LASAR'S SHIP HAS BEEN SIGHTED—WITH THE PIRATE SHIP IN TOW! WE ARE LEAVING TO MEET HIM!

I SHALL BE DISGRACED FOR LIFE IF IT IS DISCOVERED THAT I WAS NOT THE MAN WHO DEFEATED THE BARRACUDA! I MUST GET TO PETER BEFORE THE OTHERS...



HUGO! WHAT IS WRONG?

I'M IN GRAVE TROUBLE, PETER! I HATE TO ASK THIS, BUT MY HEAD IS AT STAKE! THE KING MUST NOT DISCOVER THAT I FAILED TO CARRY OUT AN ORDER. MAY I TAKE YOUR PLACE?



ALL RIGHT... I SUPPOSE I DID PULL A TRICK ON YOU! BUT, HURRY—I SEE THEM COMING!



WELL DONE, CAPTAIN LASAR! TAKE THE POSITION OF HONOR AT THE HEAD OF THE PROCESSION!

ER... THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!

WHAT ARE YOU SCALLYWAGS DOING HERE? GET AWAY!

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES

IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE, SIR LASAR, TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON—THE HIGHEST HONOR IN THE LAND!

THIS SHOULD BE PETER, NOT I!

THIS IS TOO MUCH! PARADES, MEDALS, AND NOW THE PRINCESS IS SMILING AT HIM! HE DID NOT DO ANYTHING! PETER PESTER SHOULD GET THAT MEDAL! I WILL TELL THEM ALL!

HUSH, POKEY! DON'T!

IT WAS PETER WHO CAPTURED THE BARRACUDA, NOT HE—LASAR WAS NOT EVEN THERE!

THIS MUST BE A JOKE! IT IS ABSURD, THROW THOSE BOYS OUT!

THAT'S NOT TRUE! POKEY SLOW IS LYING!

I BELIEVE POKEY SLOW. YOU KNOW YOU ARE A HERO...AND THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS!

I SUPPOSE YOU ARE RIGHT! COME, LET US GO BACK TO THE BAKERY!

PRINCESS, AS I PROMISED AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU WILL THINK OF ME, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE WRITER OF THE LOVE LETTERS—MYSELF!

YOU WERE THE MAN IN THE BAKERY! BUT THEN YOU COULD NOT HAVE BEEN OFF SEEKING THE BARRACUDA!

I FELL ILL THE DAY I WAS TO LEAVE AND PETER TOOK MY PLACE! I COULDN'T TELL KING ROLLY FOR FEAR THAT WE BOTH WOULD BE PUNISHED!

YOUR LETTERS PROVED TO ME THAT YOU ARE AN HONORABLE MAN!

PETER THREW THE PEPPER IN HIS EYES! HE SNEEZED AND COULD NOT SEE! THE PELLETS WERE THROWN AT THEIR FEET. THEY SLIPPED. WE CROSSED THE GANGPLANK. THE SWORDS WERE THRUST IN THE DECK!

SLOW DOWN!

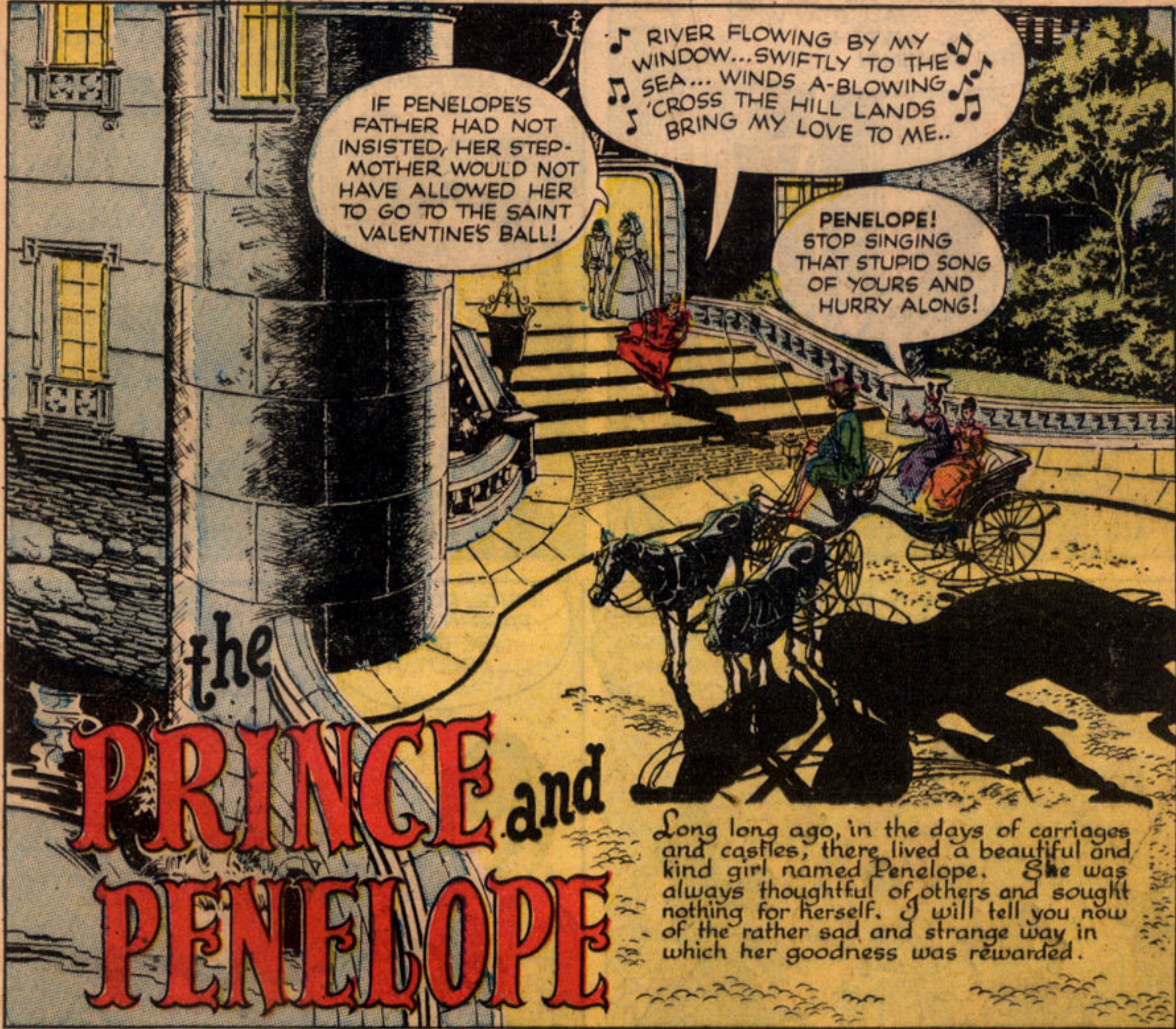
WE... SLASHED THE ROPES... RIGHT AND... LEF—OOPS!

I LIKE PETER. I LIKE GINGER PEACHY. I LIKE POKEY SLOW. I LIKE KING ROLLY. I LIKE PRINCESS DENISE. I EVEN LIKE THE BARRACUDA.

YAK YAKETY MEANS HE LIKES EVERYBODY!

AYE, SO DO I.

The End



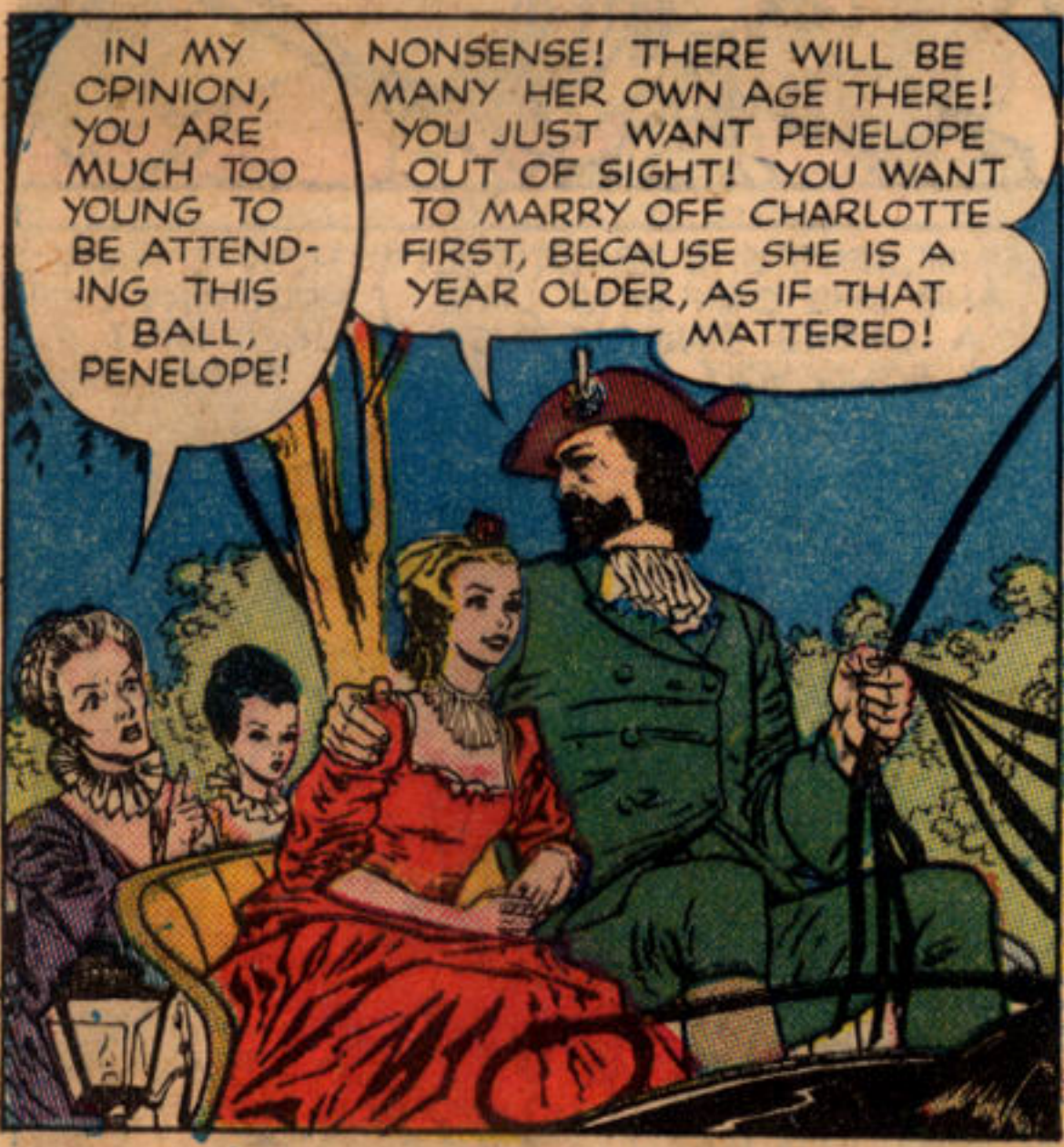
IF PENELOPE'S FATHER HAD NOT INSISTED, HER STEP-MOTHER WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED HER TO GO TO THE SAINT VALENTINE'S BALL!

RIVER FLOWING BY MY WINDOW... SWIFTLY TO THE SEA... WINDS A-BLOWING 'ROSS THE HILL LANDS BRING MY LOVE TO ME..

PENELOPE! STOP SINGING THAT STUPID SONG OF YOURS AND HURRY ALONG!

the PRINCE and PENELOPE

Long long ago, in the days of carriages and castles, there lived a beautiful and kind girl named Penelope. She was always thoughtful of others and sought nothing for herself. I will tell you now of the rather sad and strange way in which her goodness was rewarded.



IN MY OPINION, YOU ARE MUCH TOO YOUNG TO BE ATTENDING THIS BALL, PENELOPE!

NONSENSE! THERE WILL BE MANY HER OWN AGE THERE! YOU JUST WANT PENELOPE OUT OF SIGHT! YOU WANT TO MARRY OFF CHARLOTTE FIRST, BECAUSE SHE IS A YEAR OLDER, AS IF THAT MATTERED!



CHARLOTTE, TONIGHT AT THE SAINT VALENTINE DANCE, JUST REMEMBER WHEN THE MUSIC GETS NEAR THE END, AND THE BOUQUET IS PASSED AROUND THE CIRCLE TO YOU, DELIBERATELY KEEP HOLDING IT! DON'T FORGET, IF YOU WIN, IT MEANS YOU WILL BE FIRST TO MARRY!

BUT MOTHER, THAT'S BUT A SUPERSTITION!

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



CHARLOTTE, YOU RUN ALONG AND JOIN THE OTHERS! AS FOR YOU, PENELOPE, YOU SHALL STAY WITH ME AND WATCH THE DANCING!



AND NOW, THE VALENTINE DANCE! LET ALL THE UNWED GIRLS COME FORWARD AND FORM A CIRCLE!

THIS DANCE IS NOT FOR YOU, PENELOPE! SIT DOWN! YOU MAY JOIN NEXT YEAR WHEN YOU ARE OLDER!

RIDICULOUS! LET HER BE IN IT, AUGUSTA!



PASS IT ON! CHARLOTTE—NO FAIR HOLDING IT SO LONG! BOO—YOU'RE A BAD SPORT!

WHY DOESN'T THE MUSIC STOP? WHY? WHY? I DARE NOT HOLD IT ANY LONGER! ALREADY THOSE WATCHING ARE GRUMBLING!

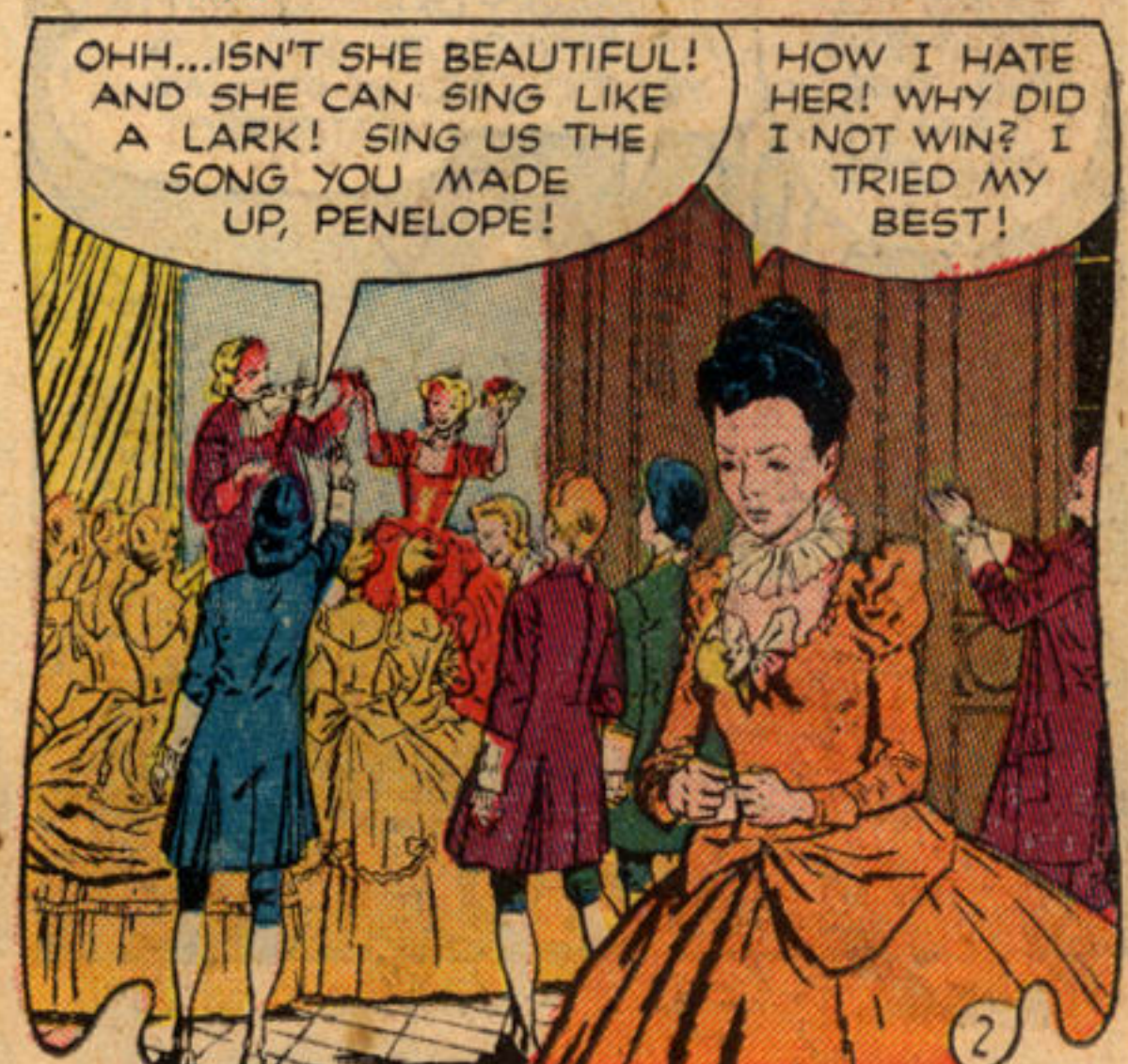


HERE, PENELOPE, PASS IT ON AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!



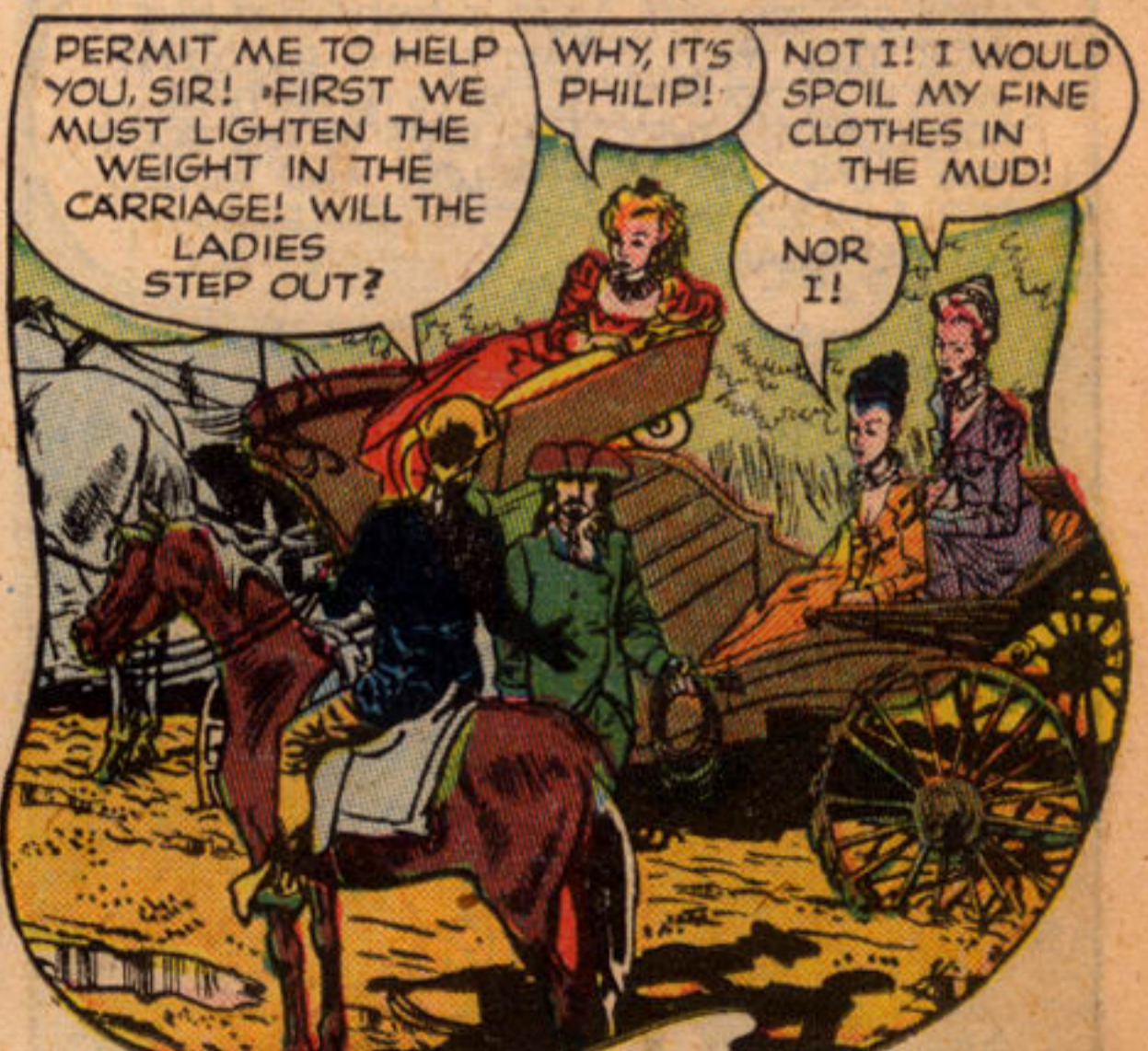
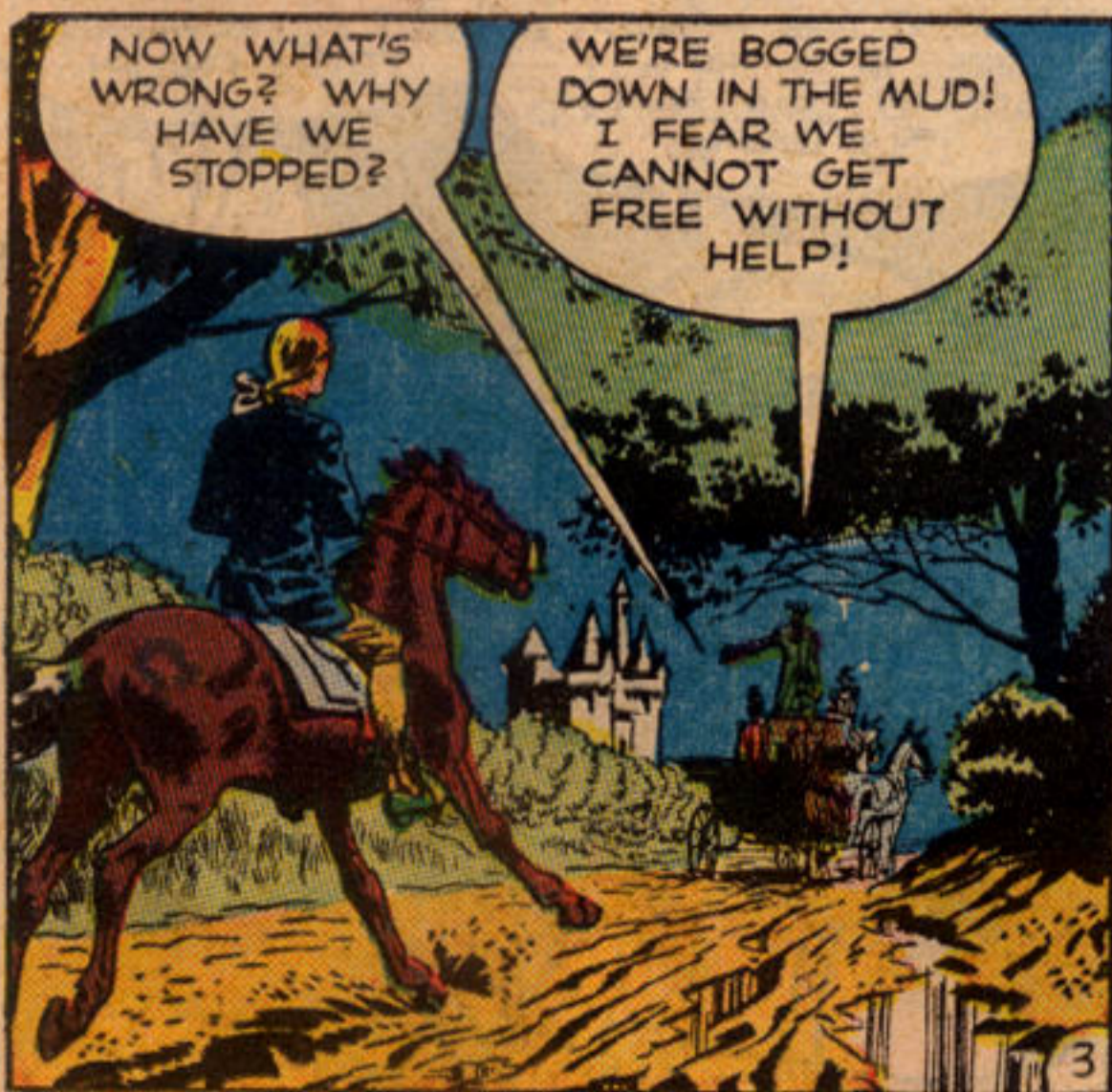
OH...THE MUSIC'S STOPPED! YOU WON! YOU WON! YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO BE MARRIED!

LUCKY PENELOPE!



OH...ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL! AND SHE CAN SING LIKE A LARK! SING US THE SONG YOU MADE UP, PENELOPE!

HOW I HATE HER! WHY DID I NOT WIN? I TRIED MY BEST!



UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



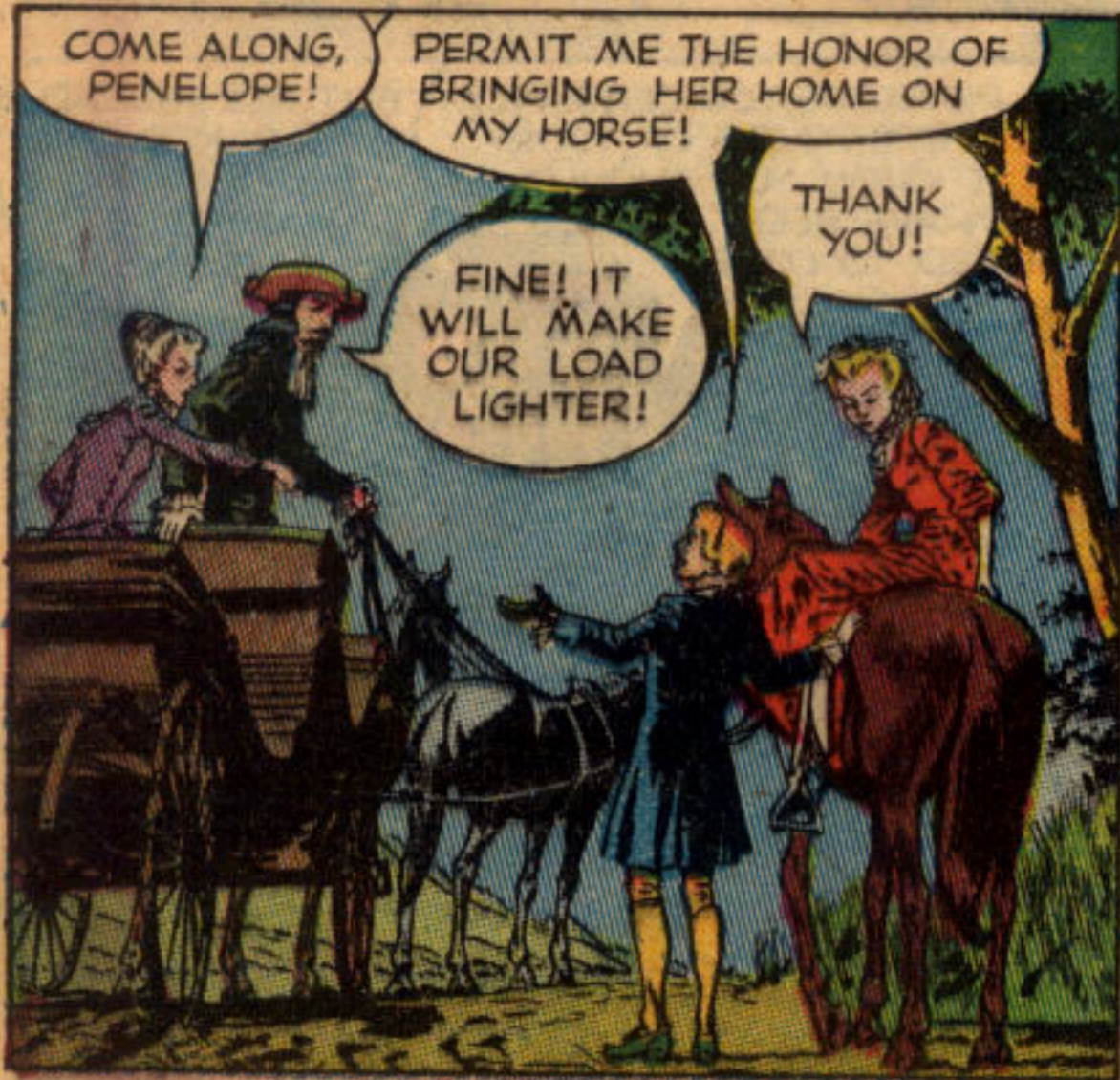
I'LL GET OUT!

NOT INTO THE MUD, BUT UP HERE, MY DEAR!



BRAVO! YOU DID IT!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE SUCCEEDED WITHOUT YOUR HELP, KIND FRIEND!

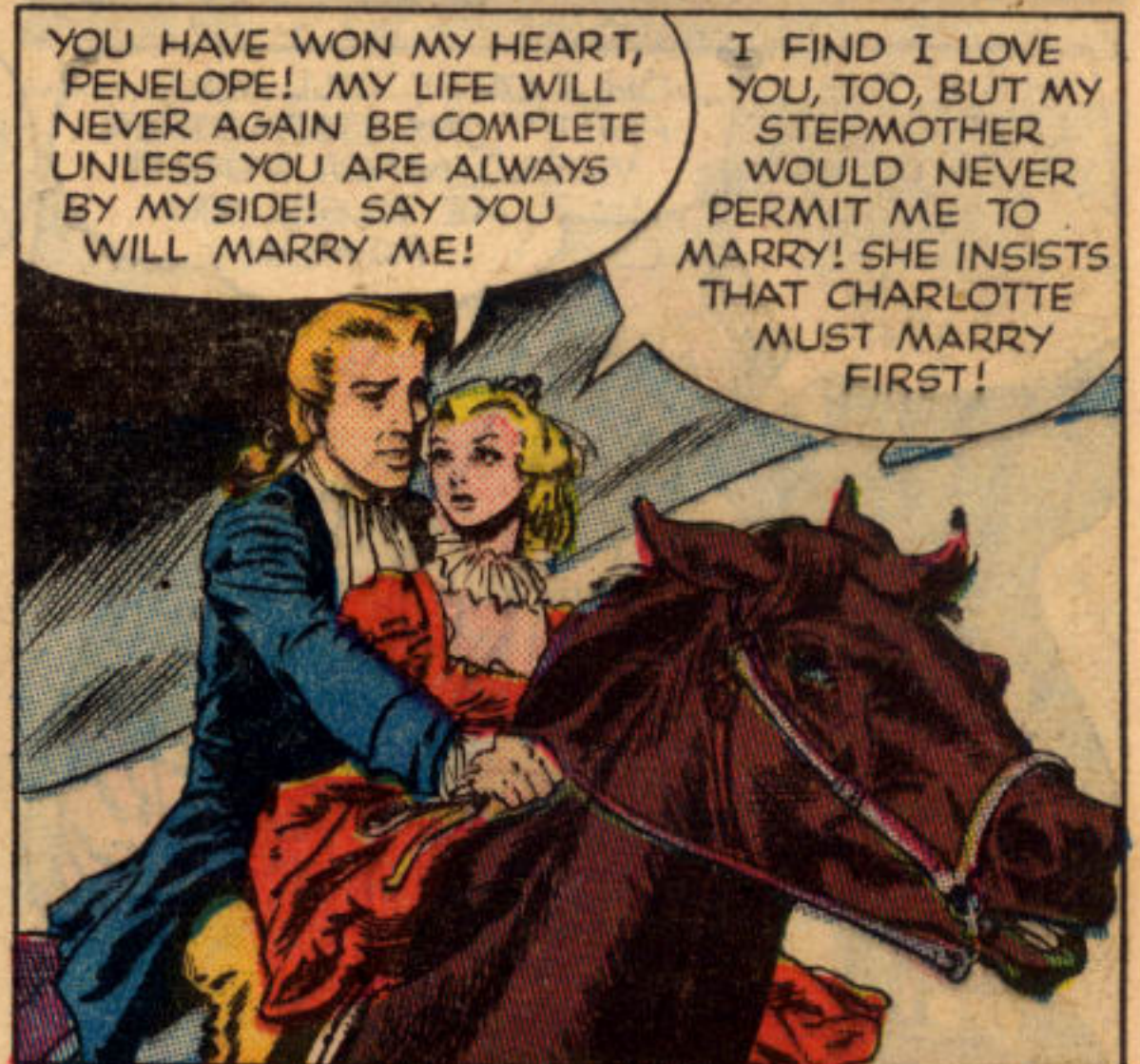


COME ALONG, PENELOPE!

PERMIT ME THE HONOR OF BRINGING HER HOME ON MY HORSE!

THANK YOU!

FINE! IT WILL MAKE OUR LOAD LIGHTER!



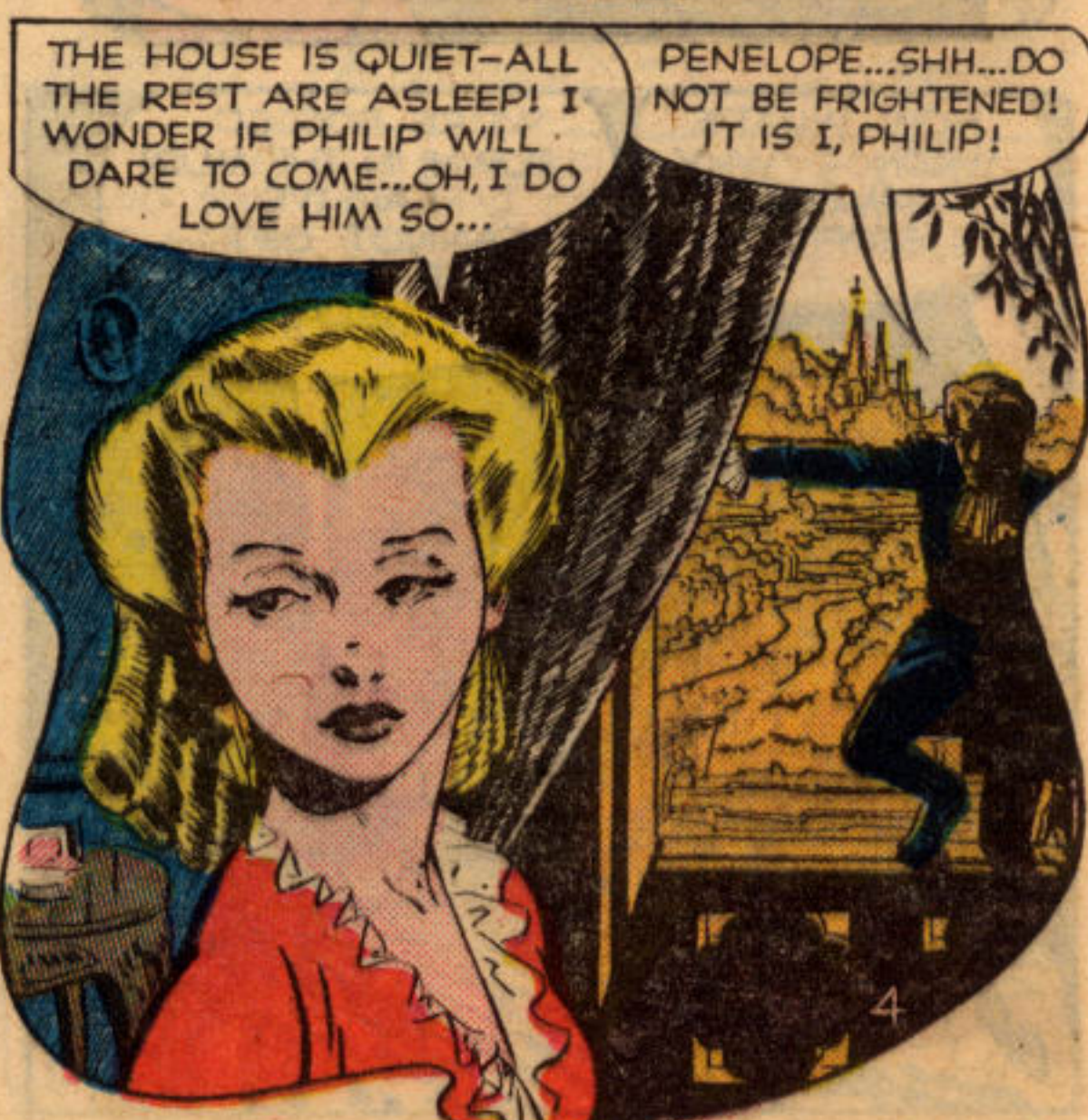
YOU HAVE WON MY HEART, PENELOPE! MY LIFE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE COMPLETE UNLESS YOU ARE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE! SAY YOU WILL MARRY ME!

I FIND I LOVE YOU, TOO, BUT MY STEPMOTHER WOULD NEVER PERMIT ME TO MARRY! SHE INSISTS THAT CHARLOTTE MUST MARRY FIRST!



I HEAR THEIR CARRIAGE COMING! QUICK, TELL ME, WHICH IS YOUR ROOM? AFTER THEY HAVE GONE TO BED, I MUST TALK TO YOU AGAIN!

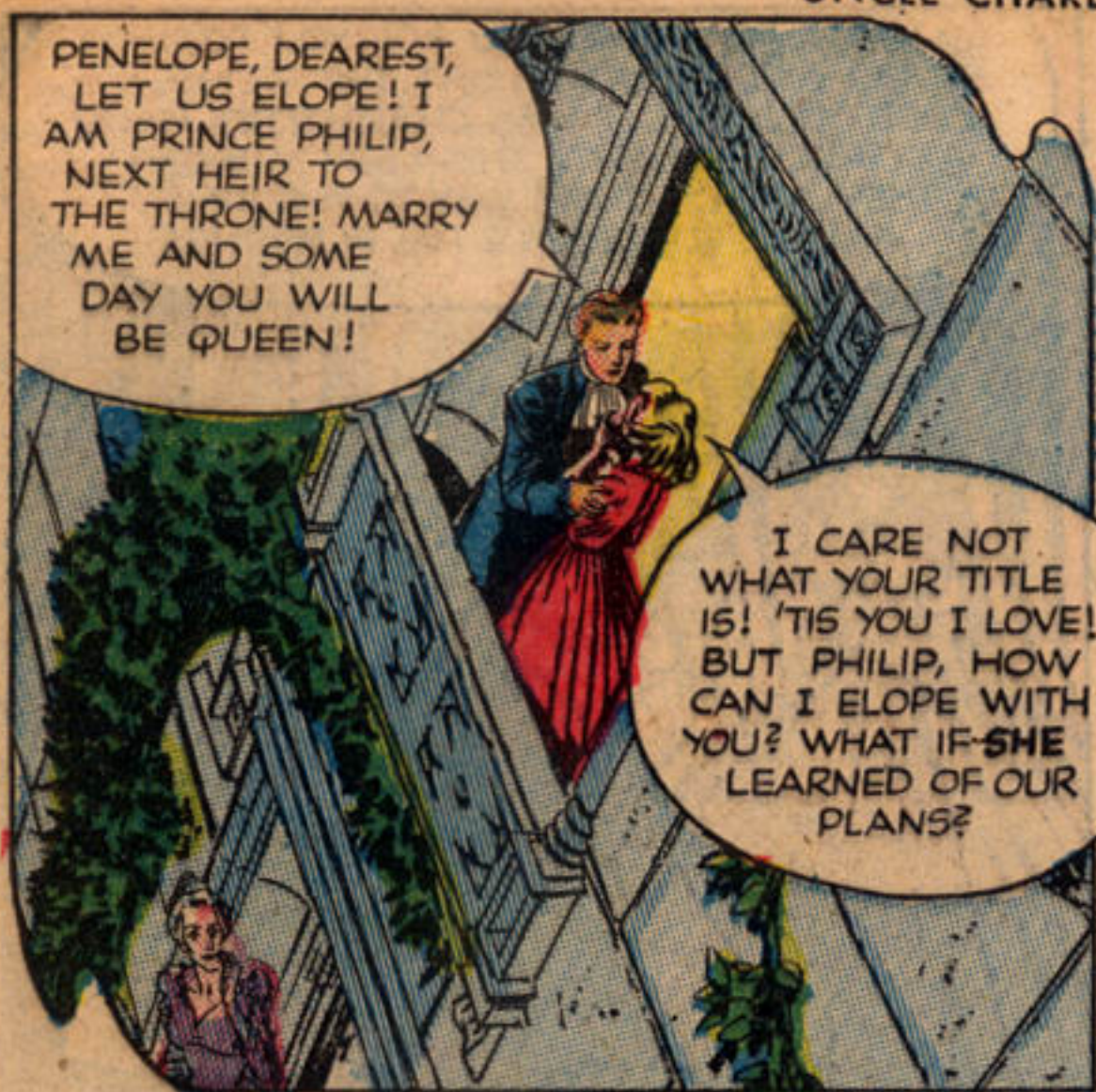
THAT IS MY ROOM UP THERE—THE ONE WITH THE BALCONY! MY STEPMOTHER SLEEPS IN THE ROOM BELOW AND WOULD SURELY HEAR YOU!



THE HOUSE IS QUIET—ALL THE REST ARE ASLEEP! I WONDER IF PHILIP WILL DARE TO COME...OH, I DO LOVE HIM SO...

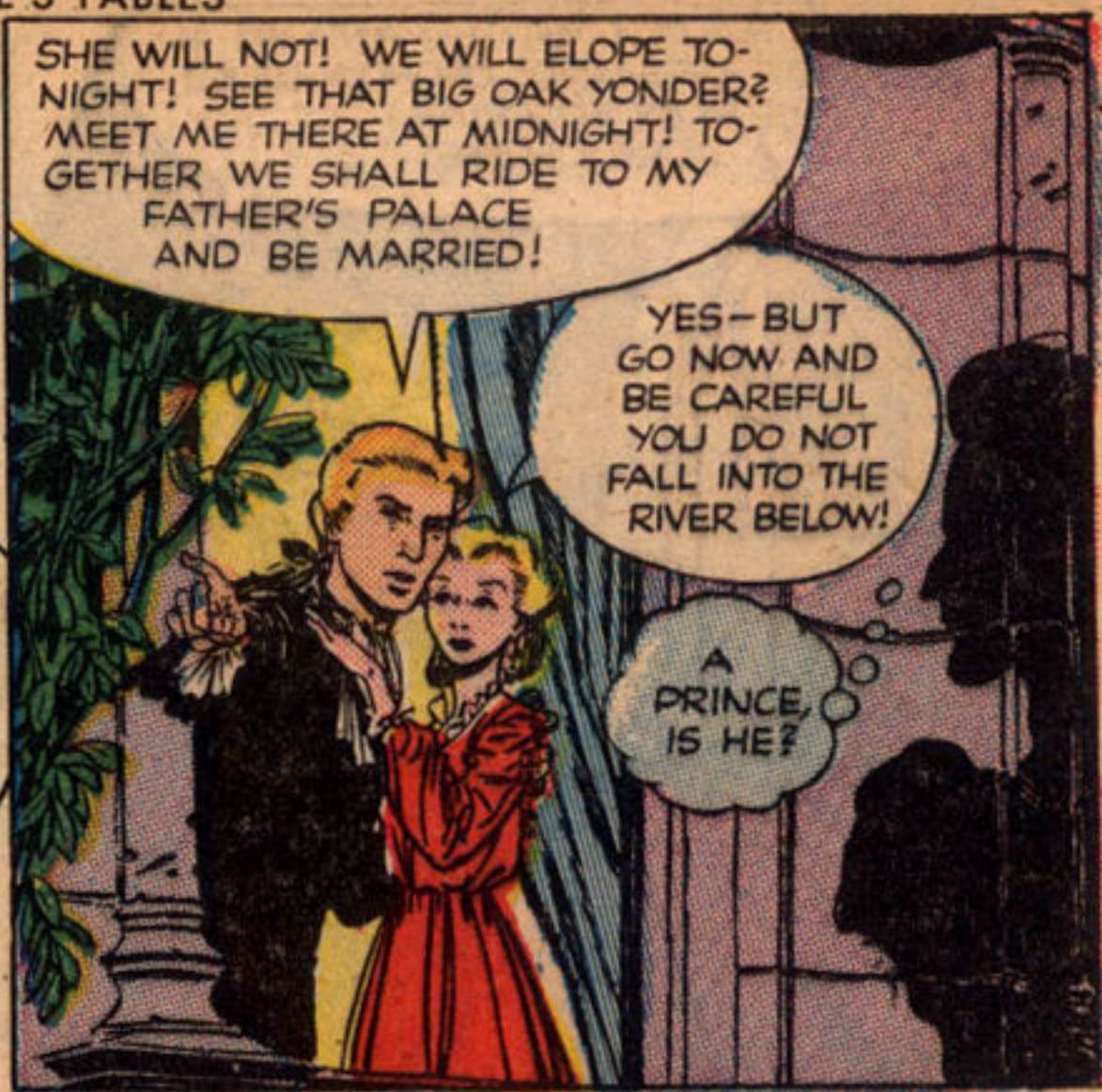
PENELOPE...SHH...DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED! IT IS I, PHILIP!

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



PENELOPE, DEAREST, LET US ELOPE! I AM PRINCE PHILIP, NEXT HEIR TO THE THRONE! MARRY ME AND SOME DAY YOU WILL BE QUEEN!

I CARE NOT WHAT YOUR TITLE IS! 'TIS YOU I LOVE! BUT PHILIP, HOW CAN I ELOPE WITH YOU? WHAT IF SHE LEARNED OF OUR PLANS?



SHE WILL NOT! WE WILL ELOPE TONIGHT! SEE THAT BIG OAK YONDER? MEET ME THERE AT MIDNIGHT! TOGETHER WE SHALL RIDE TO MY FATHER'S PALACE AND BE MARRIED!

YES - BUT GO NOW AND BE CAREFUL YOU DO NOT FALL INTO THE RIVER BELOW!

A PRINCE, IS HE?



PENELOPE WILL NOT ELOPE! I'LL FIX HER! FIRST I MUST SET BACK THE CLOCKS SO SHE WILL NOT KNOW WHEN MIDNIGHT COMES! MY FULL DAUGHTER, CHARLOTTE, SHALL TAKE HER PLACE!

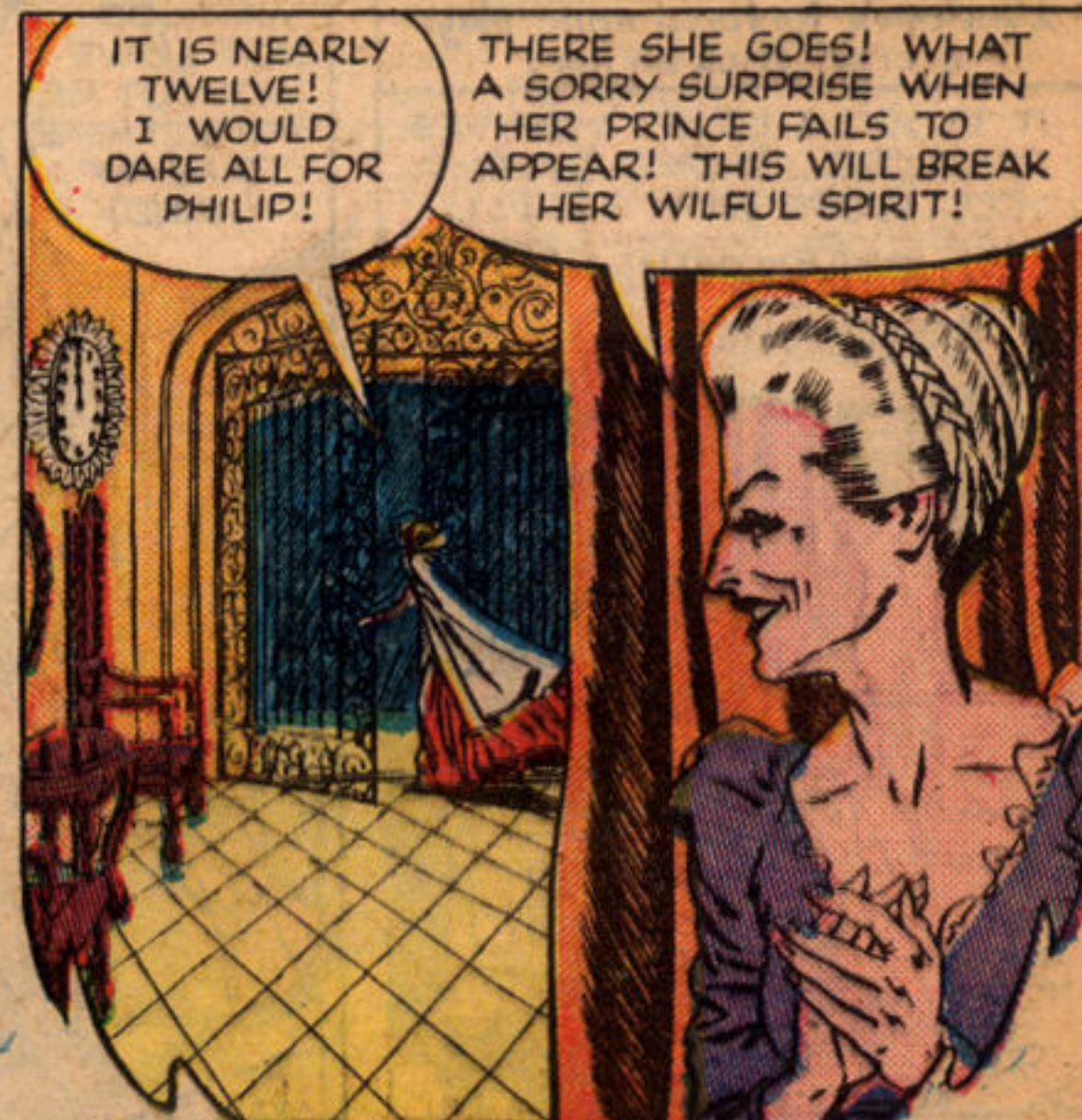


DRESSED AND VEILED AS YOU ARE, HE WILL NOT KNOW YOU FROM PENELOPE! NOW GO! HE'LL BE WAITING UNDER THE BIG OAK TREE! KEEP YOUR FACE COVERED TILL YOU REACH THE PALACE! ONCE YOU ARE HIS BRIDE, I WILL BE THE MOTHER OF A QUEEN!



BELOVED! NO ONE CAN STOP US NOW! WE WILL REACH THE PALACE BEFORE DAWN! DEAR PENELOPE, WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET? DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED!

HE STILL DOES NOT KNOW I AM NOT PENELOPE!



IT IS NEARLY TWELVE! I WOULD DARE ALL FOR PHILIP!

THERE SHE GOES! WHAT A SORRY SURPRISE WHEN HER PRINCE FAILS TO APPEAR! THIS WILL BREAK HER WILFUL SPIRIT!



A FULL HOUR I WAITED AND HE HAS NOT APPEARED! OH, HOW COULD HE PLAY SO CRUEL A JOKE ON ME!

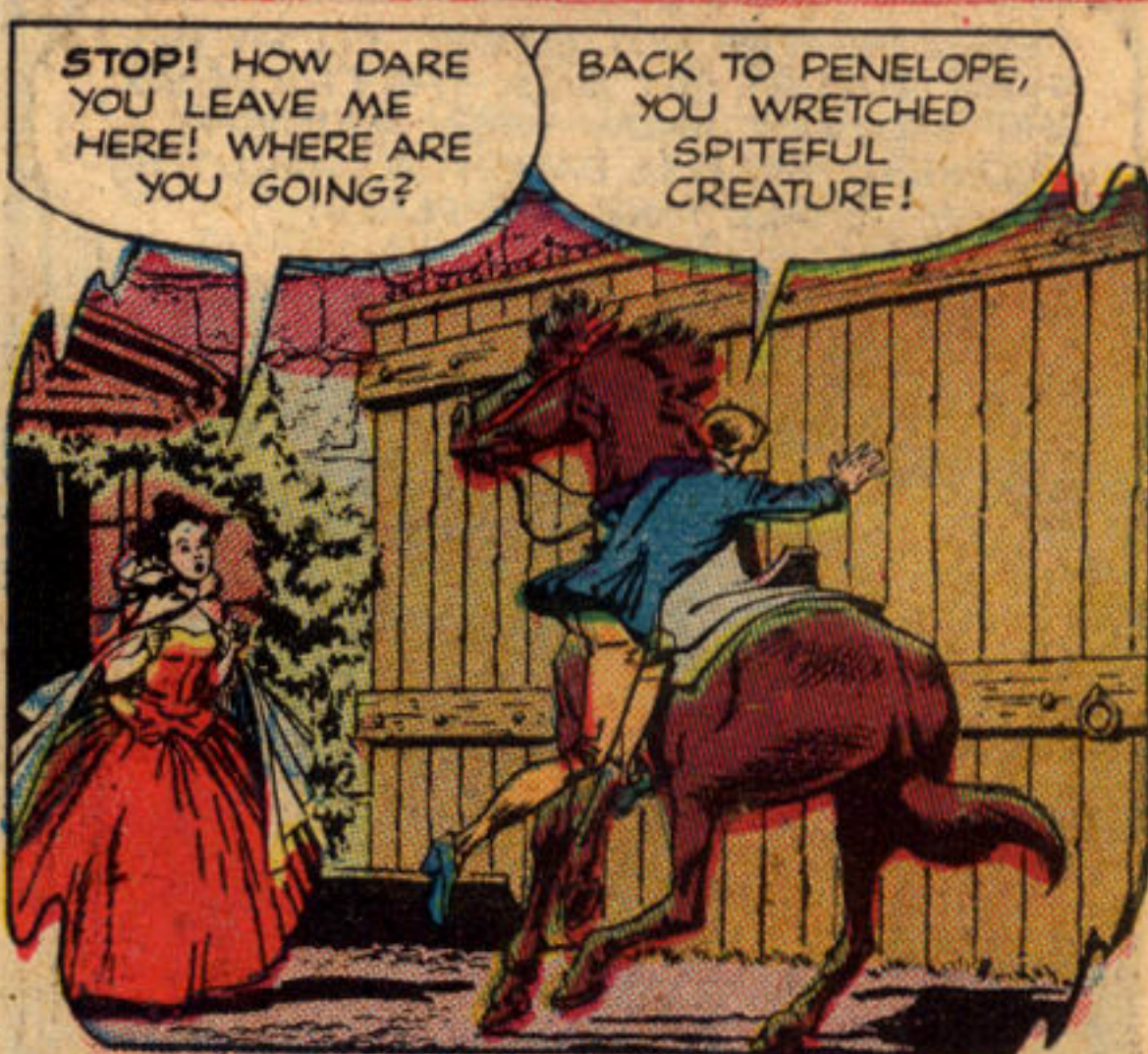


OH-HO...SO THERE YOU ARE, YOU FOOLISH STUPID GIRL! YOU THOUGHT THE PRINCE LOVED YOU, BUT IT WAS CHARLOTTE'S HAND HE TRULY SOUGHT! THIS VERY MOMENT THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE KING'S PALACE TO RECEIVE HIS BLESSINGS!



At that moment, Philip unveils Charlotte...

NOW, LET ME REMOVE YOUR VEIL SO THAT I MAY KISS...WHAT? YOU ARE NOT PENELOPE! YOU ARE HER GREEDY SISTER!



STOP! HOW DARE YOU LEAVE ME HERE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BACK TO PENELOPE, YOU WRETCHED SPITEFUL CREATURE!



Penelope's tortured mind plays a cruel trick on her!

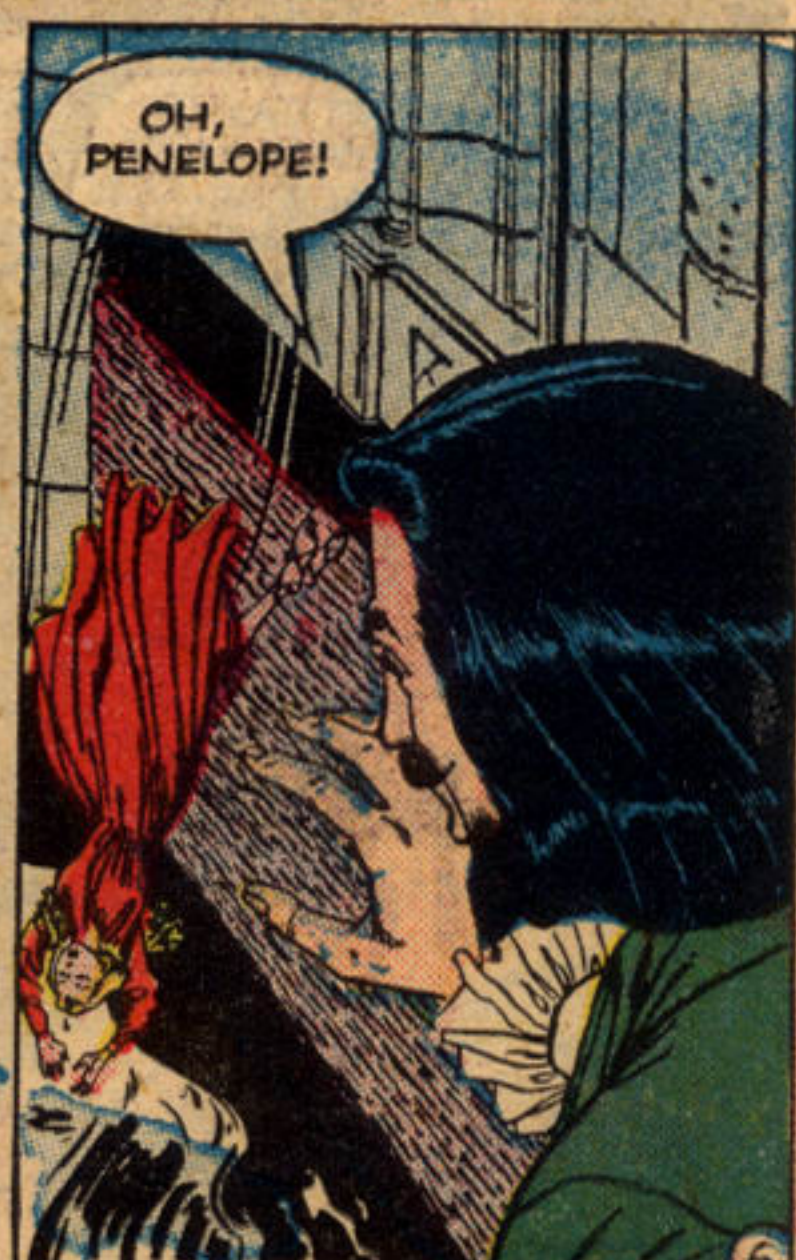
IT IS YOU I LOVE, PENELOPE...ONLY YOU...ELOPE WITH ME! ELOPE...COME, MAKE HASTE TO FOLLOW ME!

OH, YES, PHILIP, I'LL COME... WAIT!



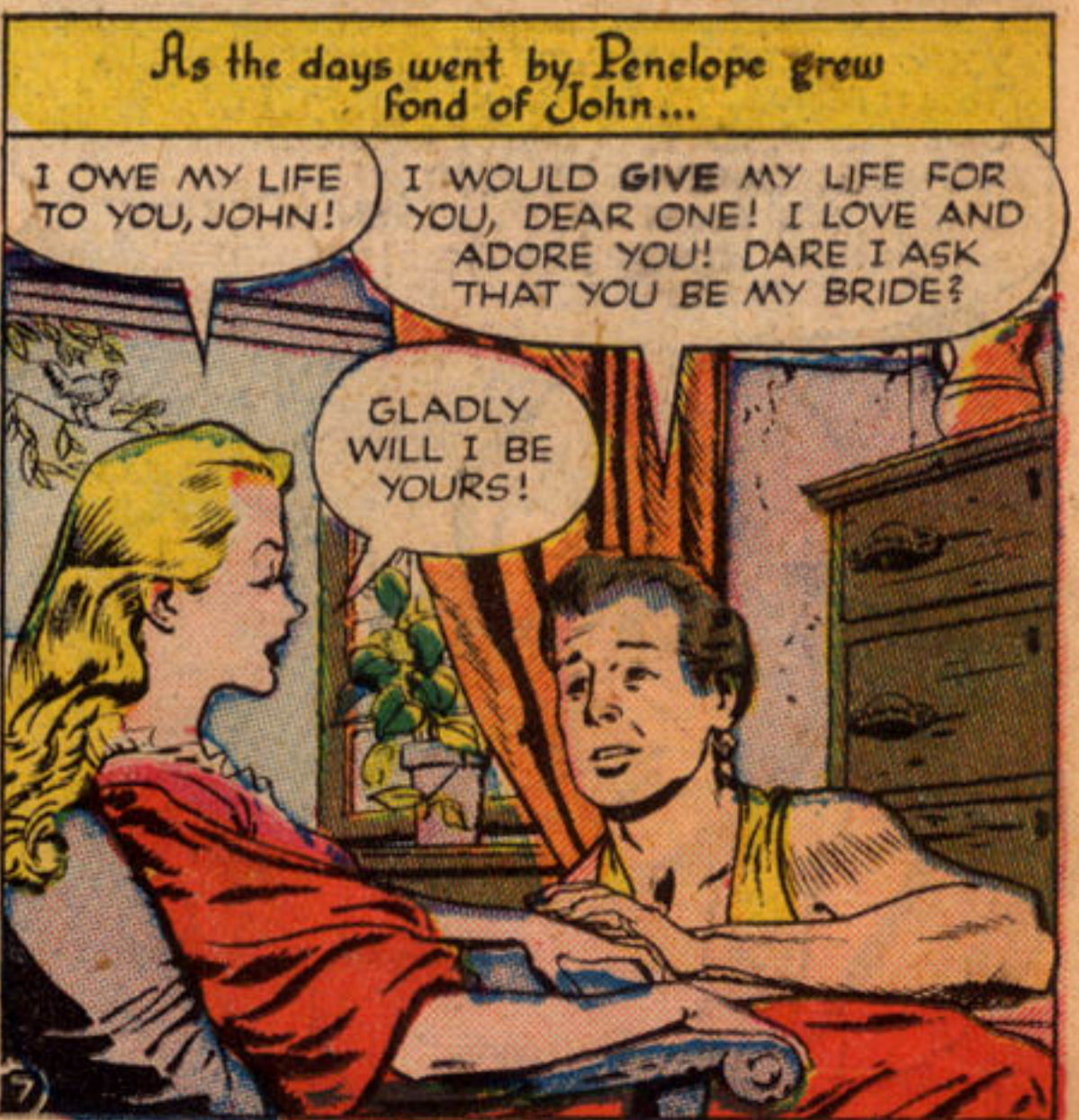
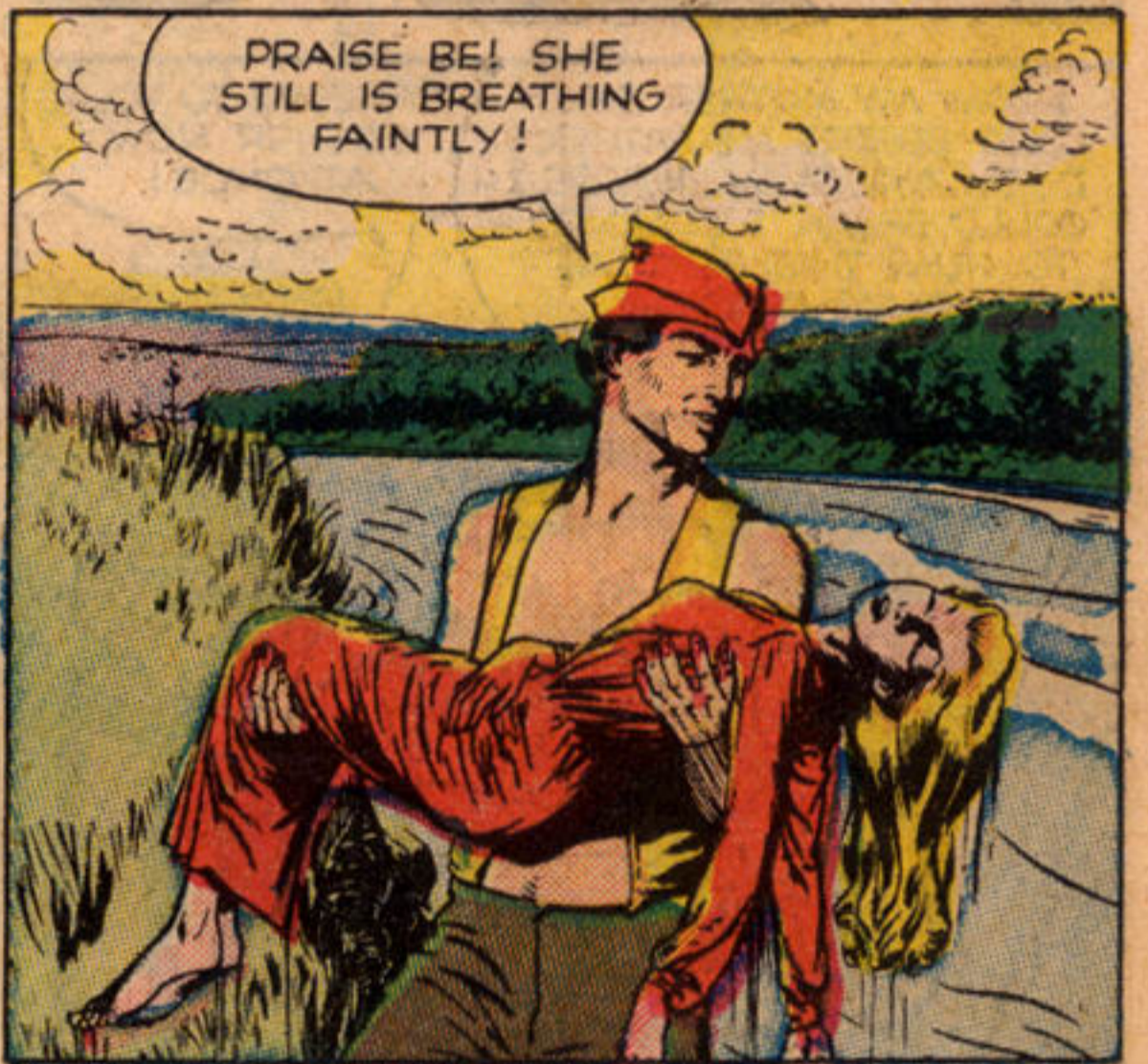
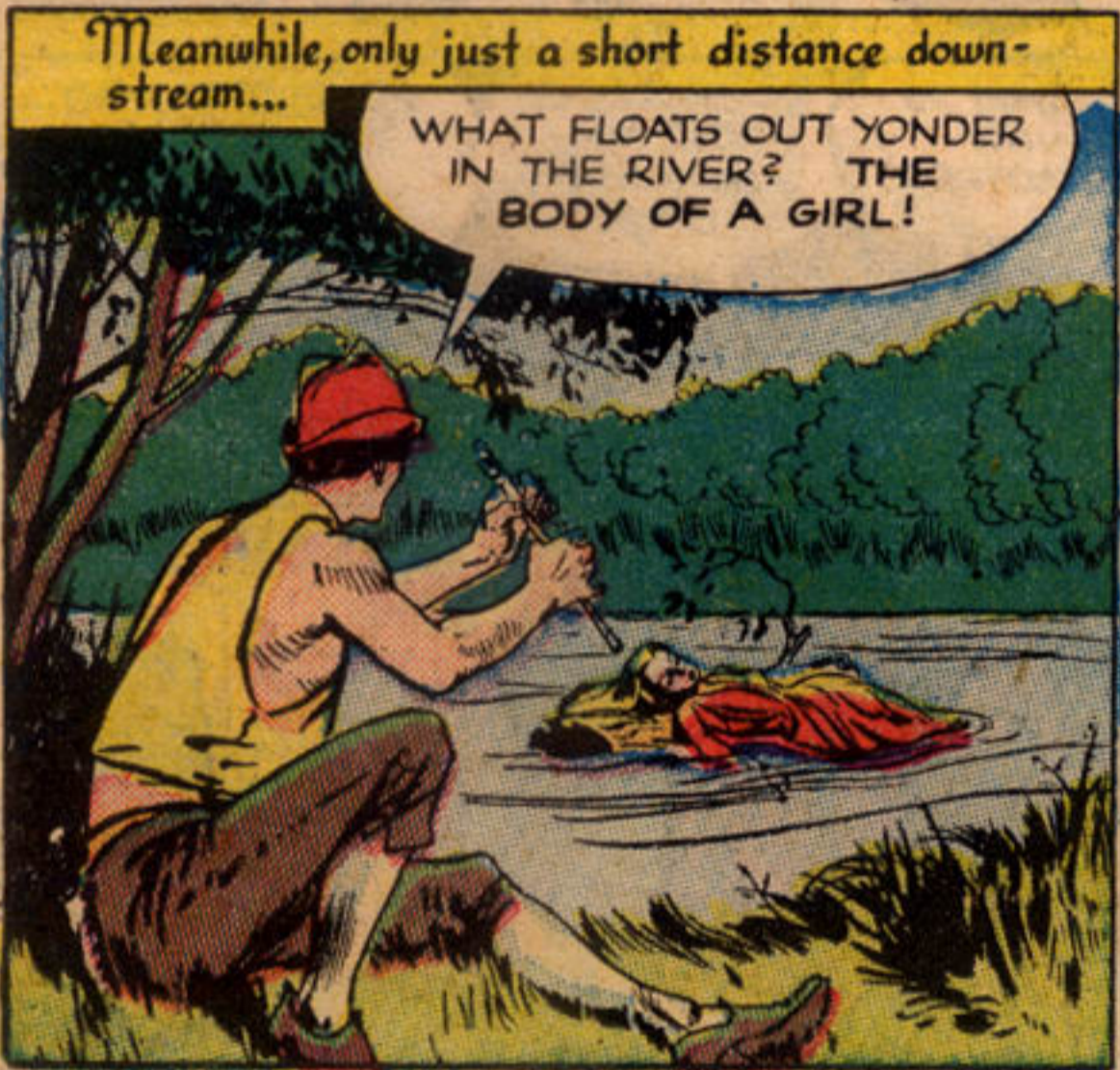
WAIT...DO NOT LEAVE WITHOUT ME, PRINCE! HERE, TAKE MY HAND!

PENELOPE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU WILL FALL INTO THE RIVER!



OH, PENELOPE!

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES

Ten long years later, and upon his father's death, Philip becomes king...

'TIS A PITY THAT A KING SO GOOD SHOULD BE SO SORROWFUL! THEY SAY HE HAS NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE GRIEF OF LOSING THE FAIR PENELOPE!

TRUE, HE FINDS HIS ONLY SOLACE REVISITING THE PLACE WHERE THEY LAST PARTED AND RELIVING HIS MEMORIES OF HER!



PENELOPE...PENELOPE...HOW DIFFERENT MY LIFE MIGHT BE IF YOU WERE ALIVE TO SHARE IT WITH ME! HARK! WHAT IS THAT MELODY I HEAR? CAN MY MIND BE PLAYING TRICKS?



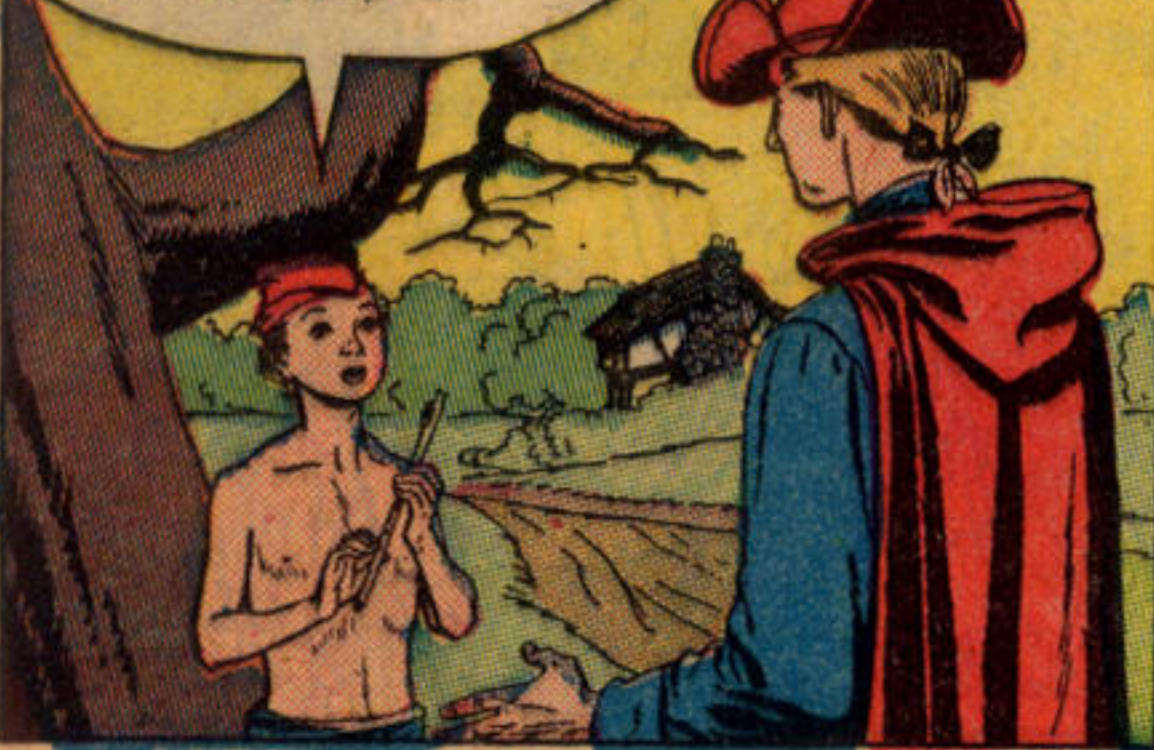
IT IS AS IF I WERE HEARING PENELOPE'S VOICE...NEVER BUT FROM HER LIPS DID I EVER HEAR THAT SONG! HOW CAN IT BE? WHERE WOULD THIS LITTLE SHEPHERD BOY LEARN SUCH A SONG?

WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT MELODY, MY LAD?



FROM MY MOTHER, SIRE, LONG BEFORE MY FATHER DIED...AYE, EVEN BEFORE I COULD SPEAK I LEARNED TO HUM THIS SONG AS SHE SANG IT TO ME IN MY CRADLE!

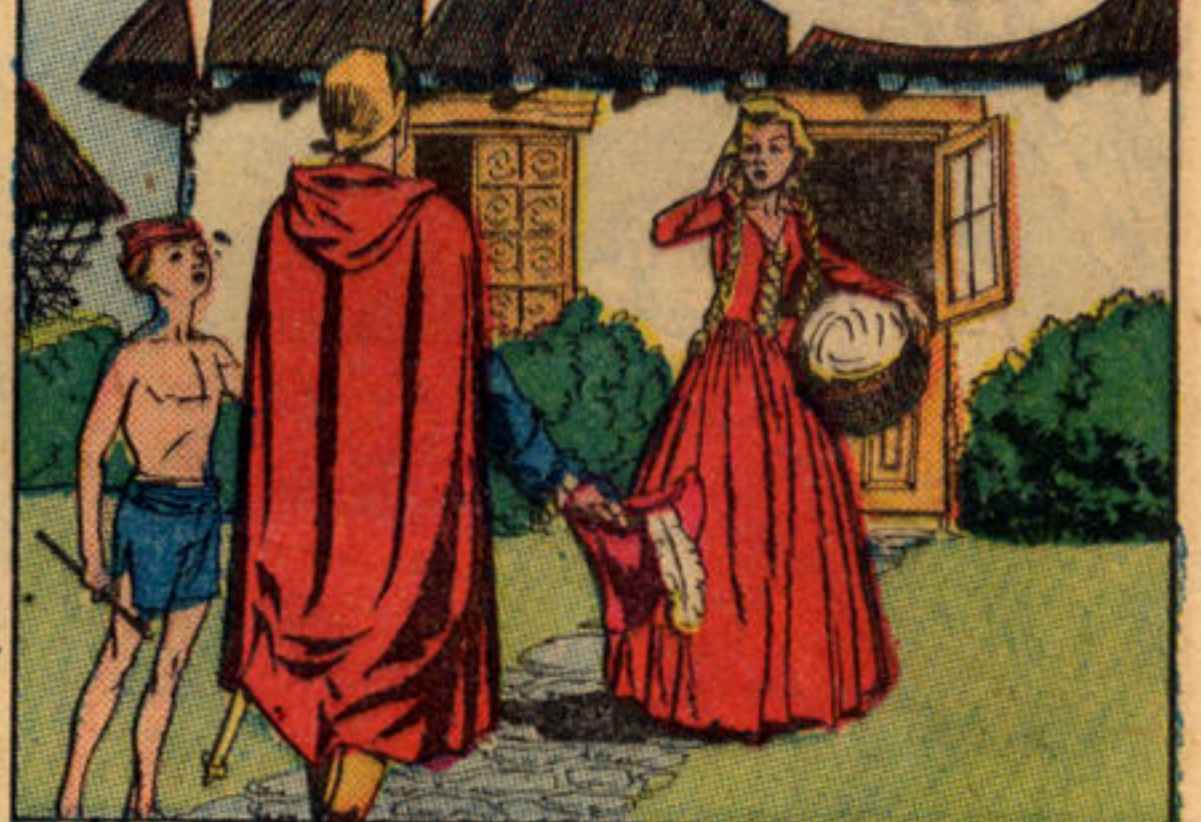
TAKE ME TO YOUR MOTHER NOW, AT ONCE!



THIS IS MY MOTHER!

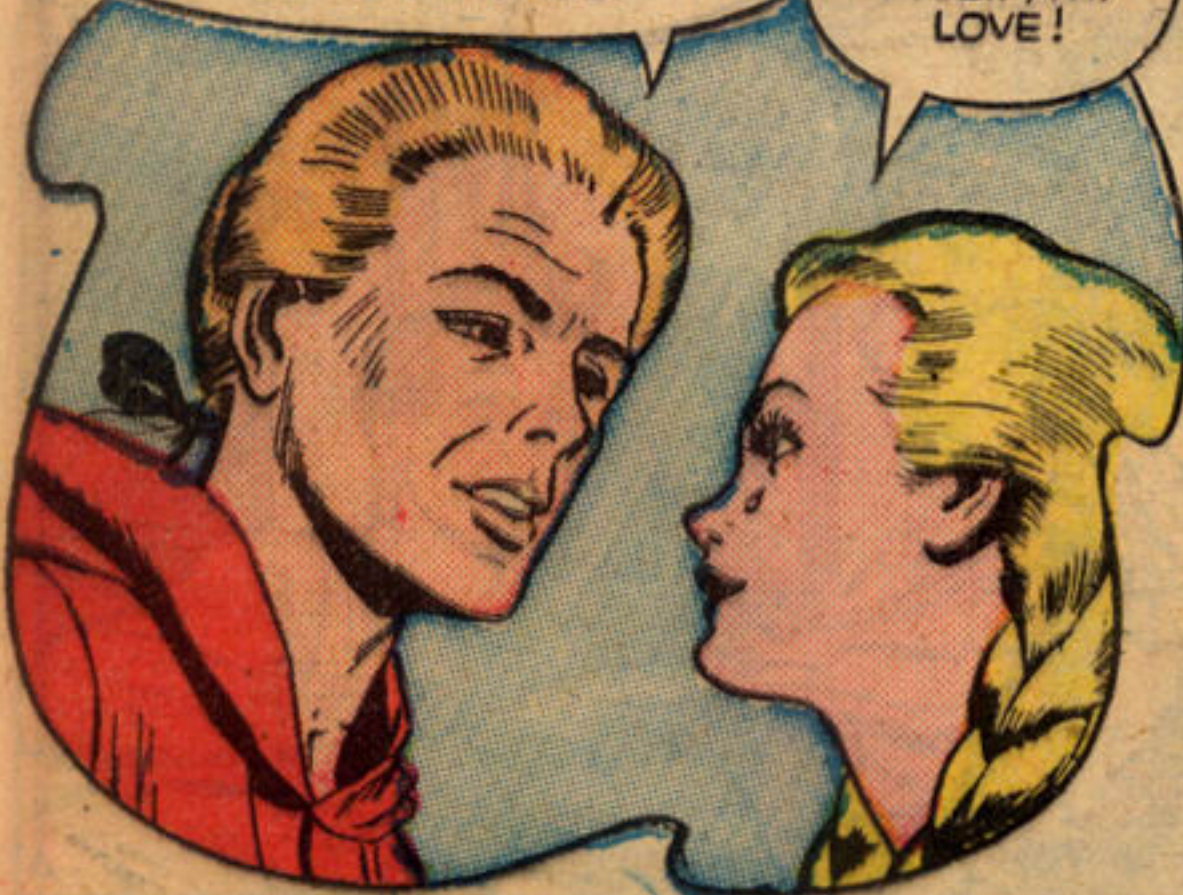
PENELOPE! OH, MY DEAREST LOVE!

PENELOPE...WHY... YES, THAT IS MY NAME! HOW D... PHILIP!



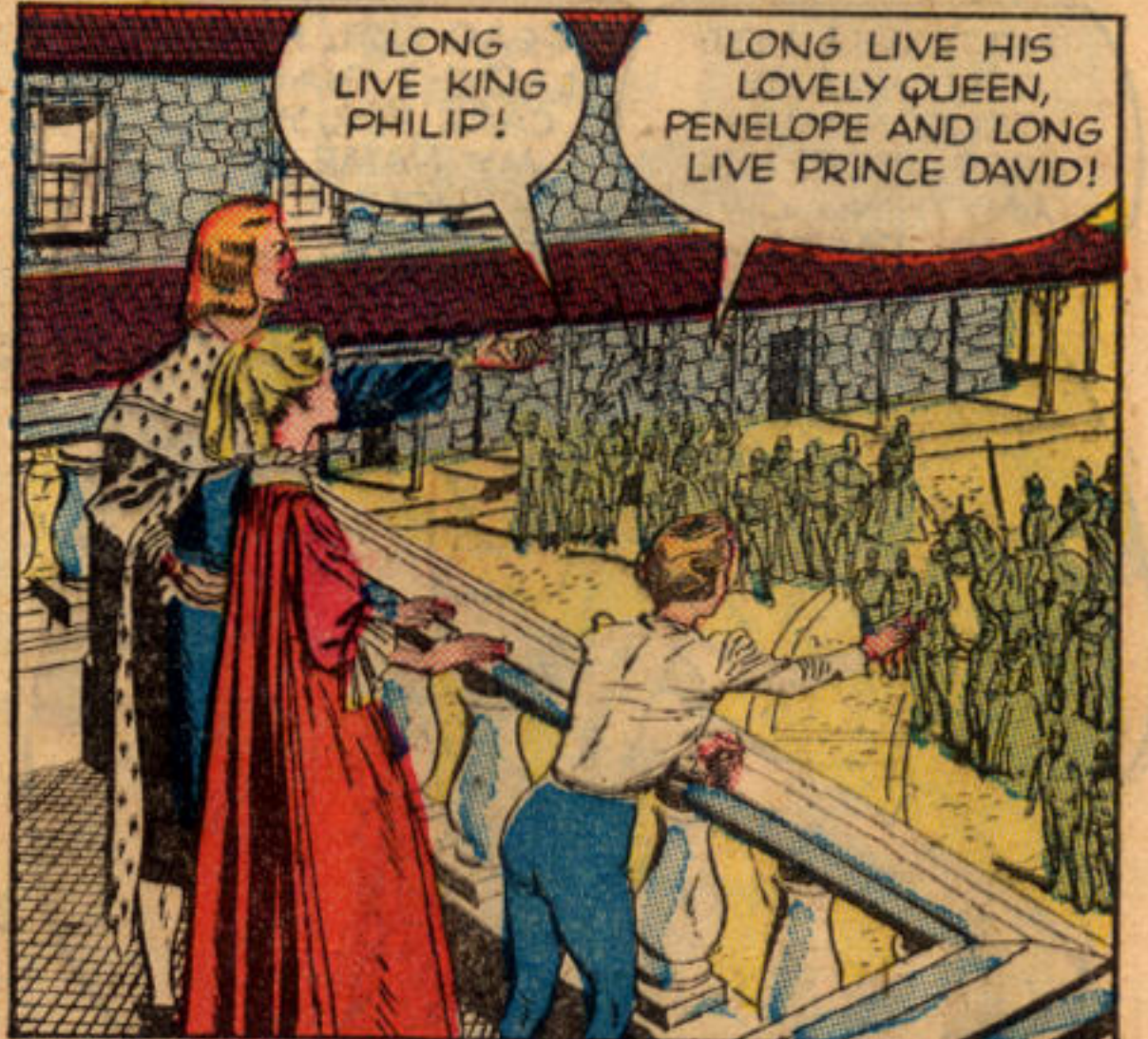
YOUR WICKED HALF-SISTER TRICKED US BY PRETENDING TO BE YOU! I HASTENED BACK ONLY TO FIND YOU HAD DROWNED! OH, DEAR PENELOPE, LET US BE WED AT ONCE! YOU SHALL BE MY QUEEN AND YOUR SON SHALL BE OUR PRINCE!

YES, YES, PHILIP, MY LOVE!



LONG LIVE KING PHILIP!

LONG LIVE HIS LOVELY QUEEN, PENELOPE AND LONG LIVE PRINCE DAVID!



And they lived in joy ever after...so ends the bitter sweet tale of Philip and Penelope.



By Order of King Alfred
 Any and all black cats
 must be destroyed. It
 shall be considered a
 crime for any citizen to
 own or shelter a black
 cat. Anyone found
 guilty of such an act
 shall be banished
 forever from the
 kingdom!

signed,
 King Alfred

THE KING
 MUST INDEED BE
 DAFT! LAST WEEK
 HE BANNED LADDERS
 BECAUSE IT IS BAD
 LUCK TO WALK UNDER
 ONE AND SO NOW MY
 POOR HUSBAND, A
 CARPENTER BY TRADE,
 IS OUT OF
 WORK!

WHAT OF
 HIS ORDER
 FORBIDDING ANY-
 ONE TO EAT SALT
 SIMPLY BECAUSE
 HE FEARS SOMEONE
 MAY SPILL IT? BAH!
 I FEAR OUR KING
 IS A SUPERSTITIOUS
 FOOL!

The Lucky Black Cat

Once upon a time, in a far off land, there lived a king whose mind was filled with many fears - of rabbits' feet and broken mirrors; of ladders and spilled salt. His kingdom was poor and he had little to treasure but his lovely daughter, the Princess Margaret...

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES

DO NOT WORRY, KING FATHER! I'M SURE THAT WHEN I DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE TO KING JAMES HE WILL LEND OUR COUNTRY 50,000 GOLD PIECES! AFTER ALL, HE IS YOUR COUSIN!

IF HE SHOULD REFUSE, OUR COUNTRY WOULD FACE RUIN! BE CAREFUL! I WILL RUB MY RABBIT'S FOOT SO NO MISFORTUNE WILL BEFALL YOU!

THERE GOES THE FAIR PRINCESS MARGARET! I HOPE SHE DOES NOT INHERIT HER FATHER'S SUPERSTITIONS!

HAVE YOU HEARD? HE HAS NOW DECREED THAT ALL BLACK CATS MUST BE DESTROYED!

MERCY! I MUST TELL POOR MRS. CRUMPET! SHE HAS ONE!

I'M OFF TO DO MY MARKETING! COME, SABER, I'LL TAKE YOU ALONG! 'TIS A FINE SUNNY DAY AND THE FISH MAN MAY HAVE A TIDBIT FOR YOU!

OH, MRS. CRUMPET, HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE BAD NEWS? THE KING HAS ORDERED THAT.. THAT.. ALL BLACK CATS BE KILLED!

MAKE HASTE AND HIDE SABER, BEFORE SOME BUSYBODY REPORTS YOU!

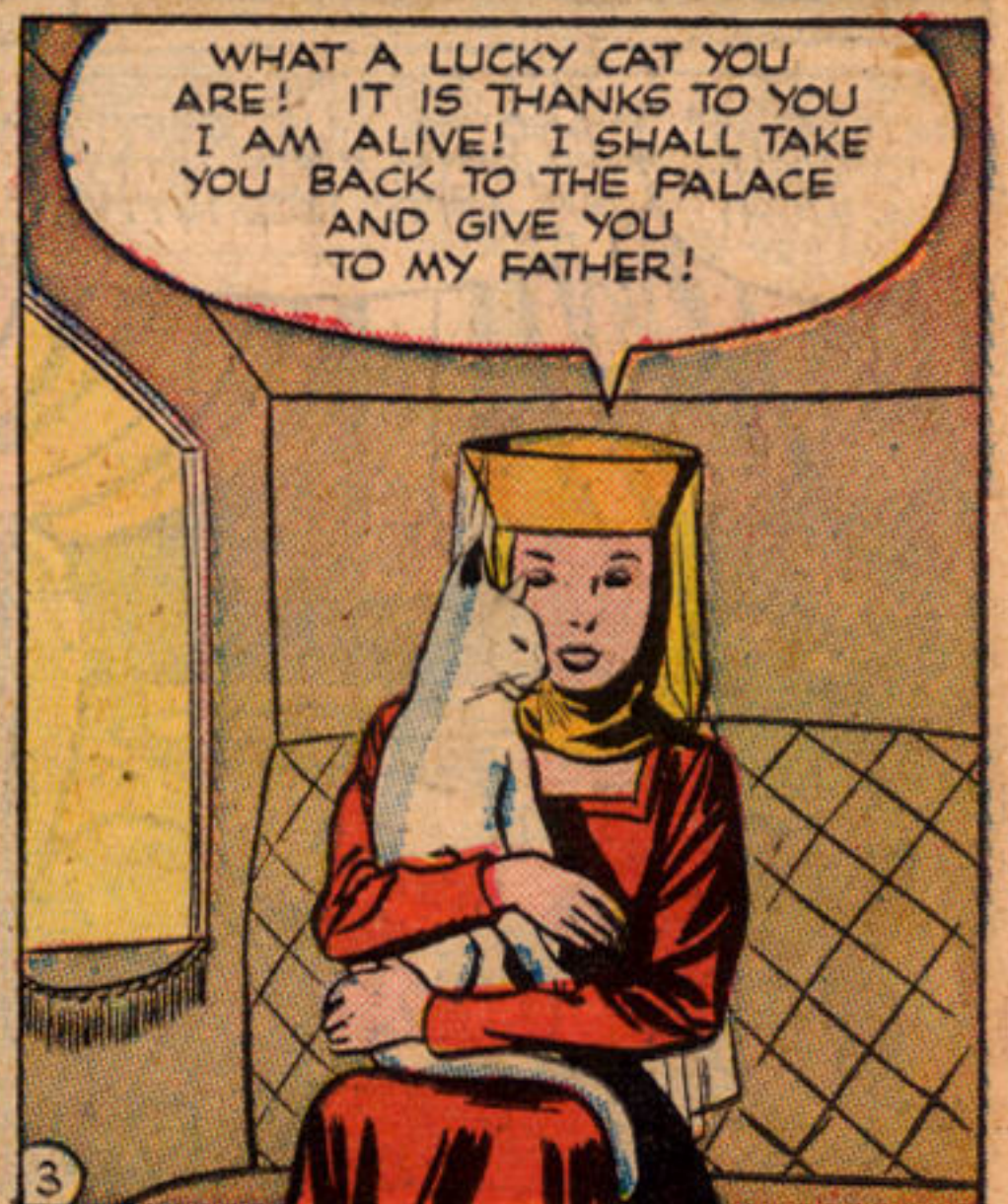
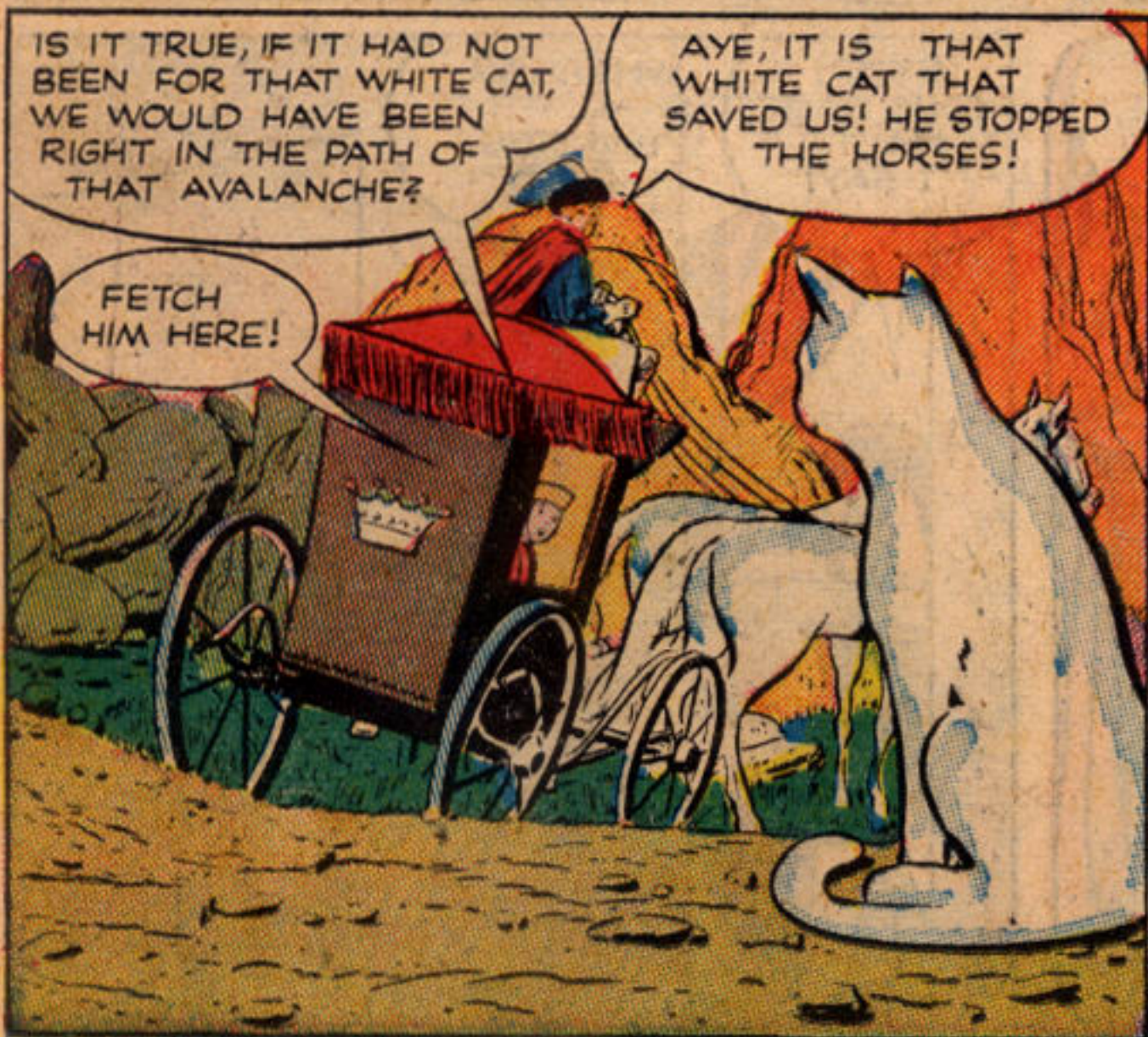
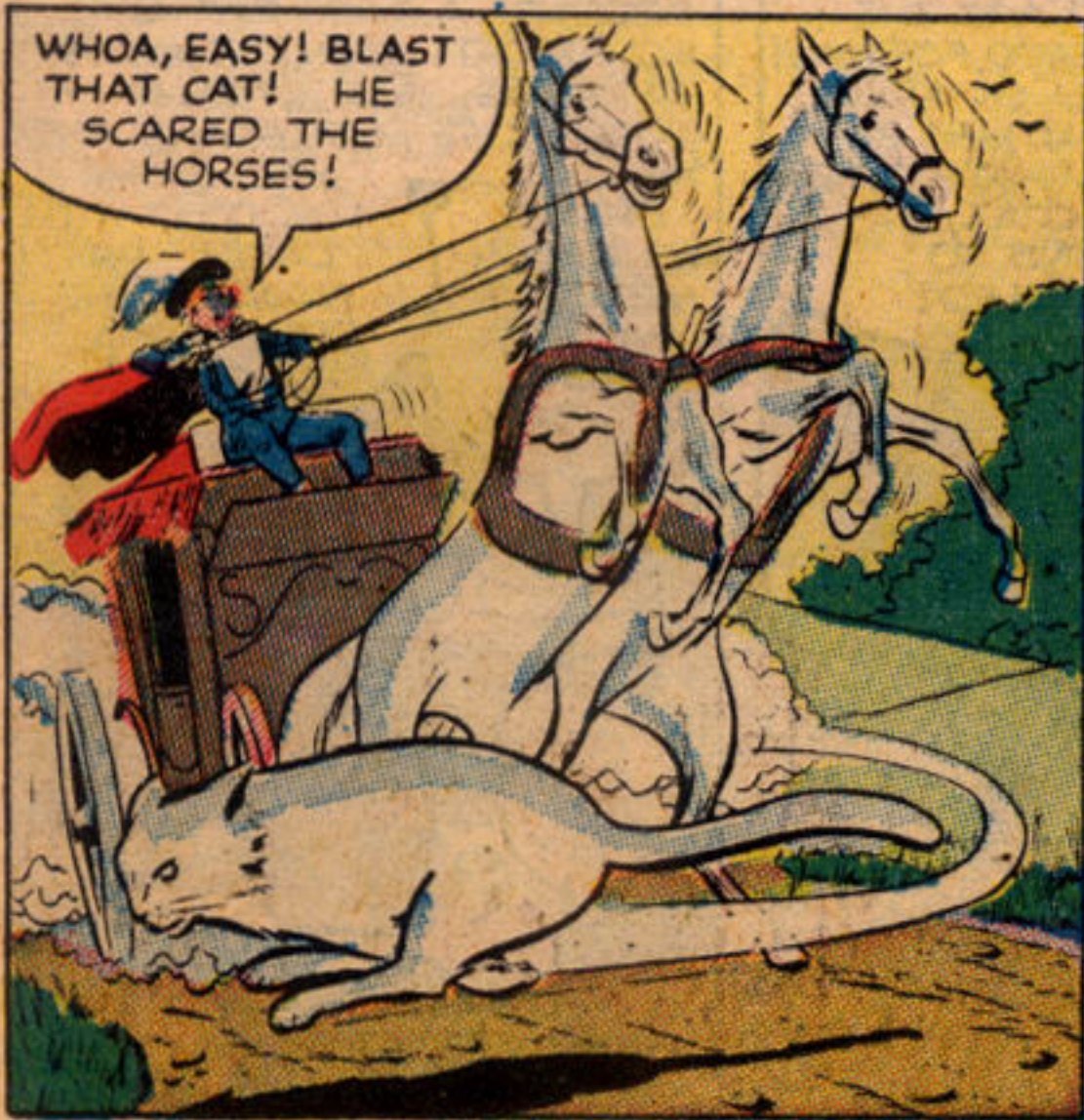
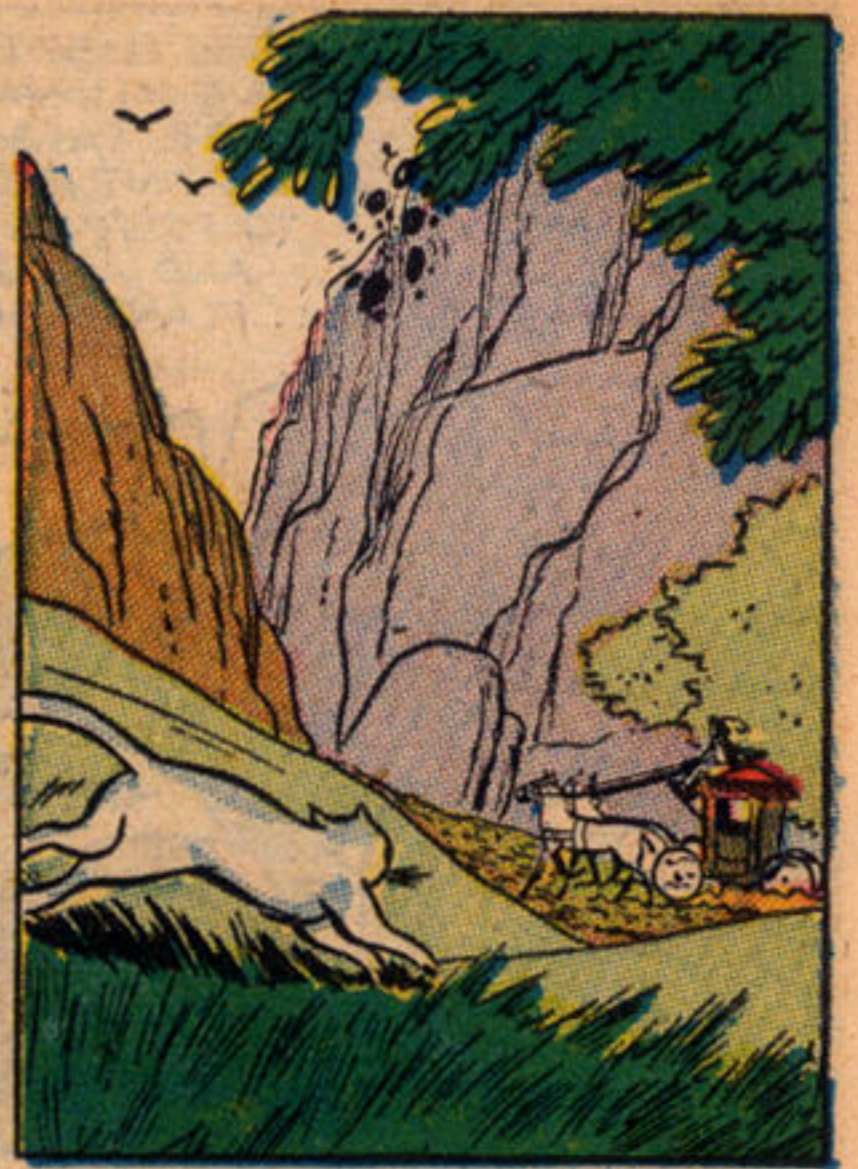
OH, OH! THEY COULD NOT TAKE SABER FROM ME! I HAVE RAISED HIM FROM A WEE LITTLE KITTEN!

WHAT SHALL I DO? YOU ARE ALL I HAVE! OH, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN KEEP YOU SAFE! AH.. I HAVE IT!

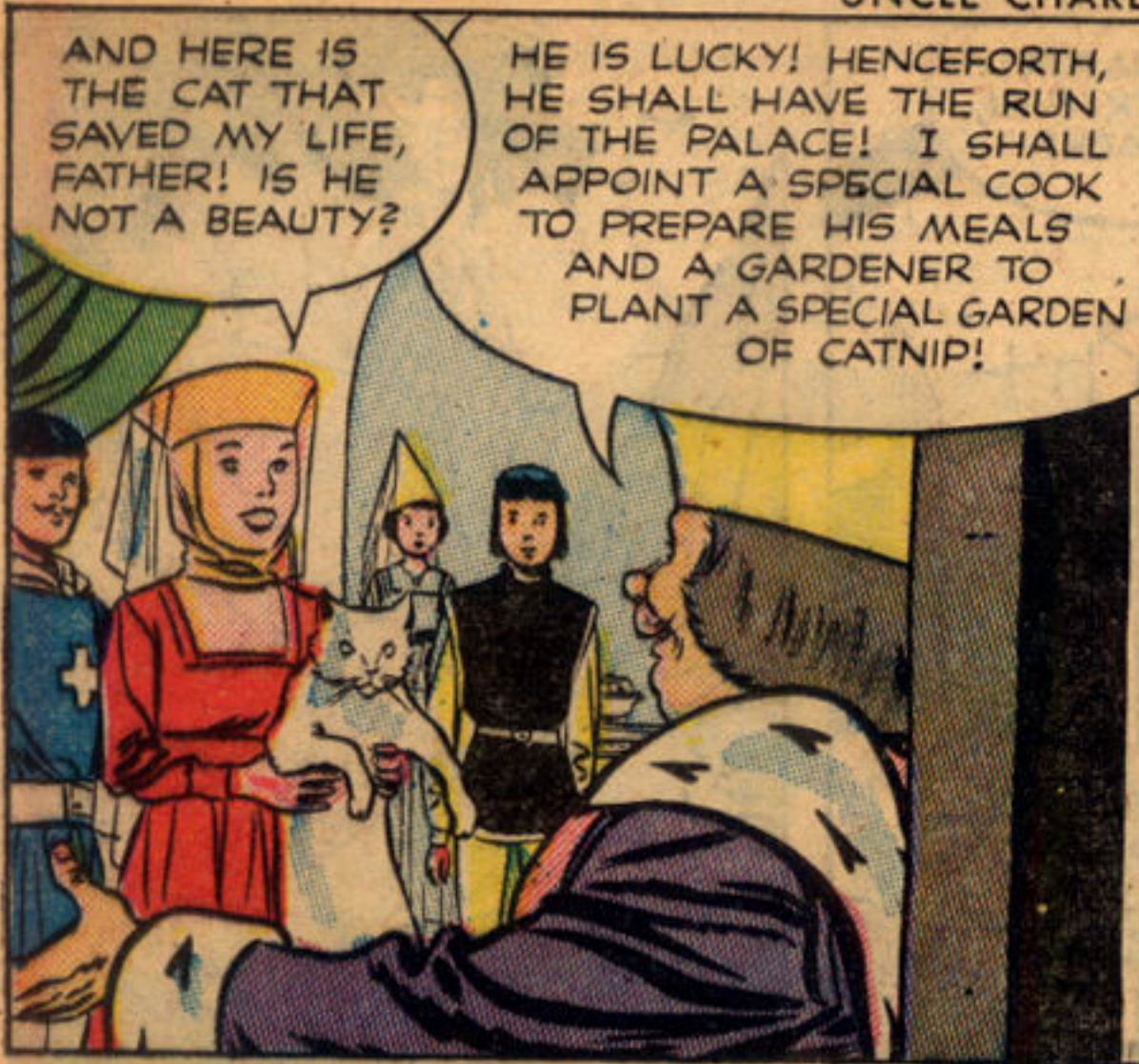
THERE, NOW, SABER... I KNOW HOW YOU HATE TO BE WET, BUT I AM DOING THIS TO SAVE YOUR LIFE! PLEASE DO NOT BE ANGRY!

OHH...WHATEVER WILL HE THINK OF ME FOR DOUSING HIM IN WHITEWASH!

PLOP!

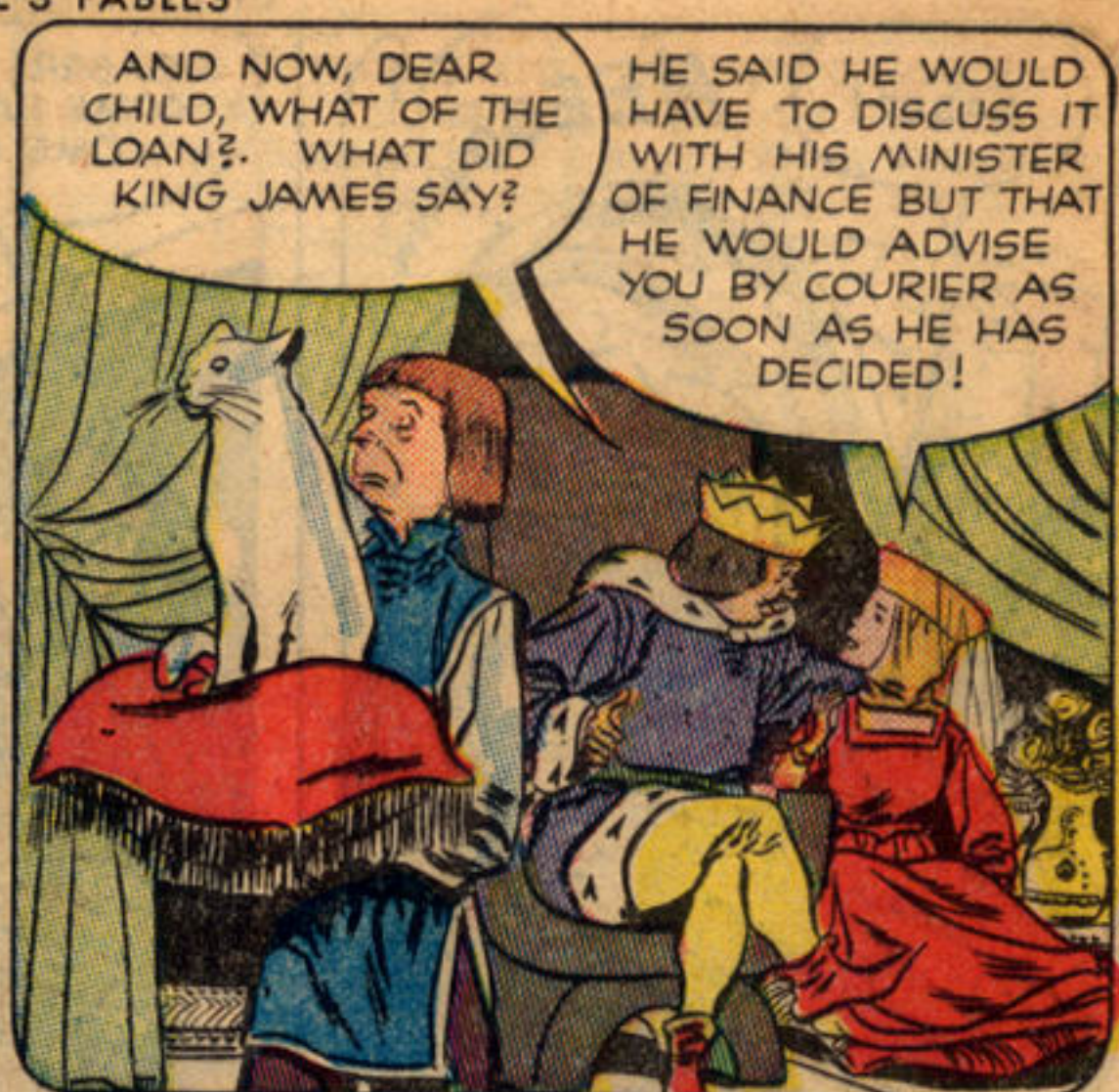


UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



AND HERE IS THE CAT THAT SAVED MY LIFE, FATHER! IS HE NOT A BEAUTY?

HE IS LUCKY! HENCEFORTH, HE SHALL HAVE THE RUN OF THE PALACE! I SHALL APPOINT A SPECIAL COOK TO PREPARE HIS MEALS AND A GARDENER TO PLANT A SPECIAL GARDEN OF CATNIP!



AND NOW, DEAR CHILD, WHAT OF THE LOAN? WHAT DID KING JAMES SAY?

HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIS MINISTER OF FINANCE BUT THAT HE WOULD ADVISE YOU BY COURIER AS SOON AS HE HAS DECIDED!

A few days later...

KING ARNOLD OF STROMBOLIA WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT THE LOAN OF 50,000 GOLD PIECES HAS BEEN APPROVED AND IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY!

SPLENDID! SPLENDID!



'TIS YOU WHO ARE THE CAUSE OF MY GOOD FORTUNE! EVER SINCE YOU ENTERED THE PALACE ALL HAS BEEN WELL! AHH...WHAT'S THIS? YOUR WHITE COAT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK SOILED!



PREPARE A BATH FOR MY ROYAL CAT! SCENT IT WITH PERFUME...AND STEW IT WITH ROSE PETALS! AND WHEN YOU BATHE HIM, DO IT WITH CARE! RE-MEMBER, HE IS A ROYAL CAT!

OH, YES, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE WILL BE MOST CAREFUL!



HE DOES NOT SEEM TO WISH A BATH!

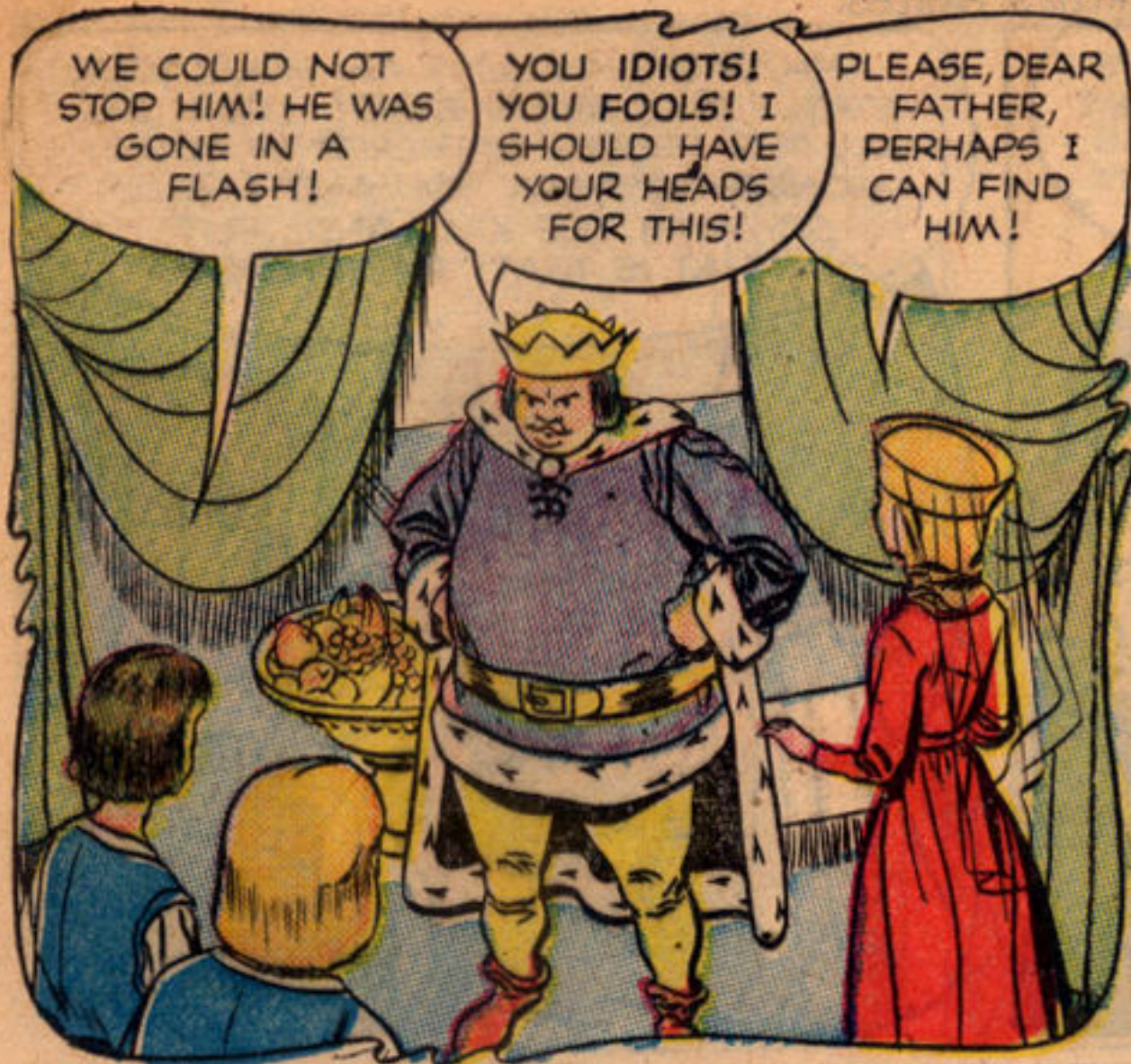
BUT THE KING ORDERED IT AND WE MUST OBEY! COME, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY...NICE KITTY...



STOP! COME BACK! HALT, I SAY!

WHATEVER SHALL WE TELL THE KING?





WE COULD NOT STOP HIM! HE WAS GONE IN A FLASH!

YOU IDIOTS! YOU FOOLS! I SHOULD HAVE YOUR HEADS FOR THIS!

PLEASE, DEAR FATHER, PERHAPS I CAN FIND HIM!



HERE IS WHERE I FIRST LAID EYES ON OUR CAT...IT'S MY BELIEF HE MUST HAVE LIVED NEARBY, AND THAT HE WOULD SEEK HIS OLD HOME!



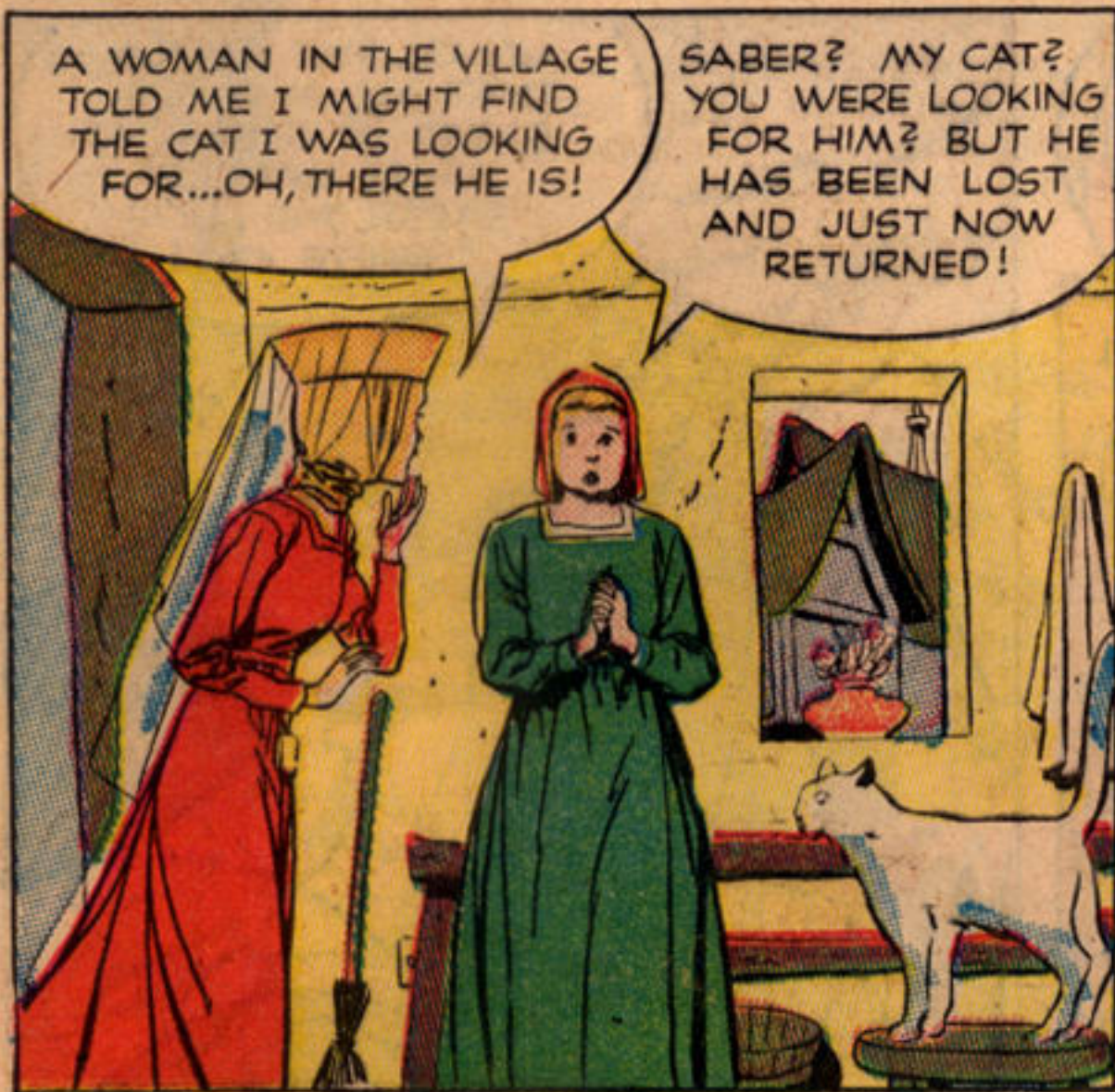
IN ALL THE TOWN IS THERE NO ONE WHO HAD A FINE WHITE CAT?

I KNOW OF NO WHITE CAT!

EH? WHAT'S THAT? CAT? A LOST CAT?..MY GOOD FRIEND, MRS. CRUMPET LOST A CAT!



WHERE EVER HAVE YOU BEEN THESE LAST TWO WEEKS, YOU NAUGHTY CAT? HERE NOW, HOLD STILL! JUST ONE MORE STROKE ON YOUR EAR AND YOU'LL BE DONE! BETTER TO STAND THIS THAN TO HAVE THE KING DISCOVER YOU ARE BLACK!



A WOMAN IN THE VILLAGE TOLD ME I MIGHT FIND THE CAT I WAS LOOKING FOR...OH, THERE HE IS!

SABER? MY CAT? YOU WERE LOOKING FOR HIM? BUT HE HAS BEEN LOST AND JUST NOW RETURNED!

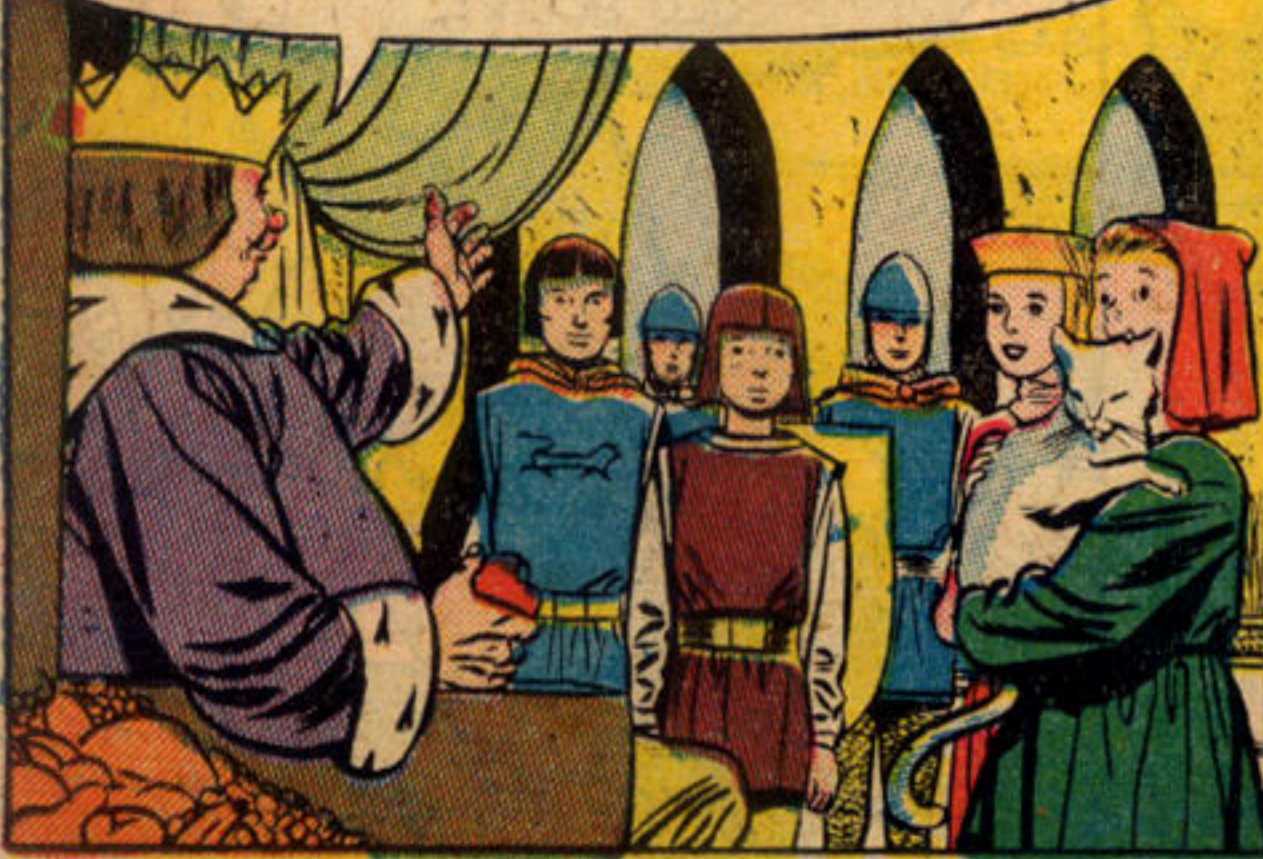


HE HAS BEEN LIVING AT THE PALACE! WE DID NOT KNOW HE BELONGED TO YOU! OH, DEAR, TELL ME, IF YOU COULD HAVE FULL CARE OF YOUR CAT, WOULD YOU AGREE TO COME LIVE AT THE PALACE?

AS LONG AS I CAN LIVE WITH SABER, I WILL BE HAPPY!

COULD HAVE FULL CARE OF YOUR CAT, WOULD YOU AGREE TO COME LIVE AT THE PALACE?

MY CAT—HE'S RETURNED! GOOD FORTUNE IS MINE AGAIN! LET THERE BE REJOICING! ORDER THE COURT SCULPTOR TO CARVE A HUGE MONUMENT OF HIM! ORDER A HOLIDAY ON THE DAY OF THE UNVEILING!

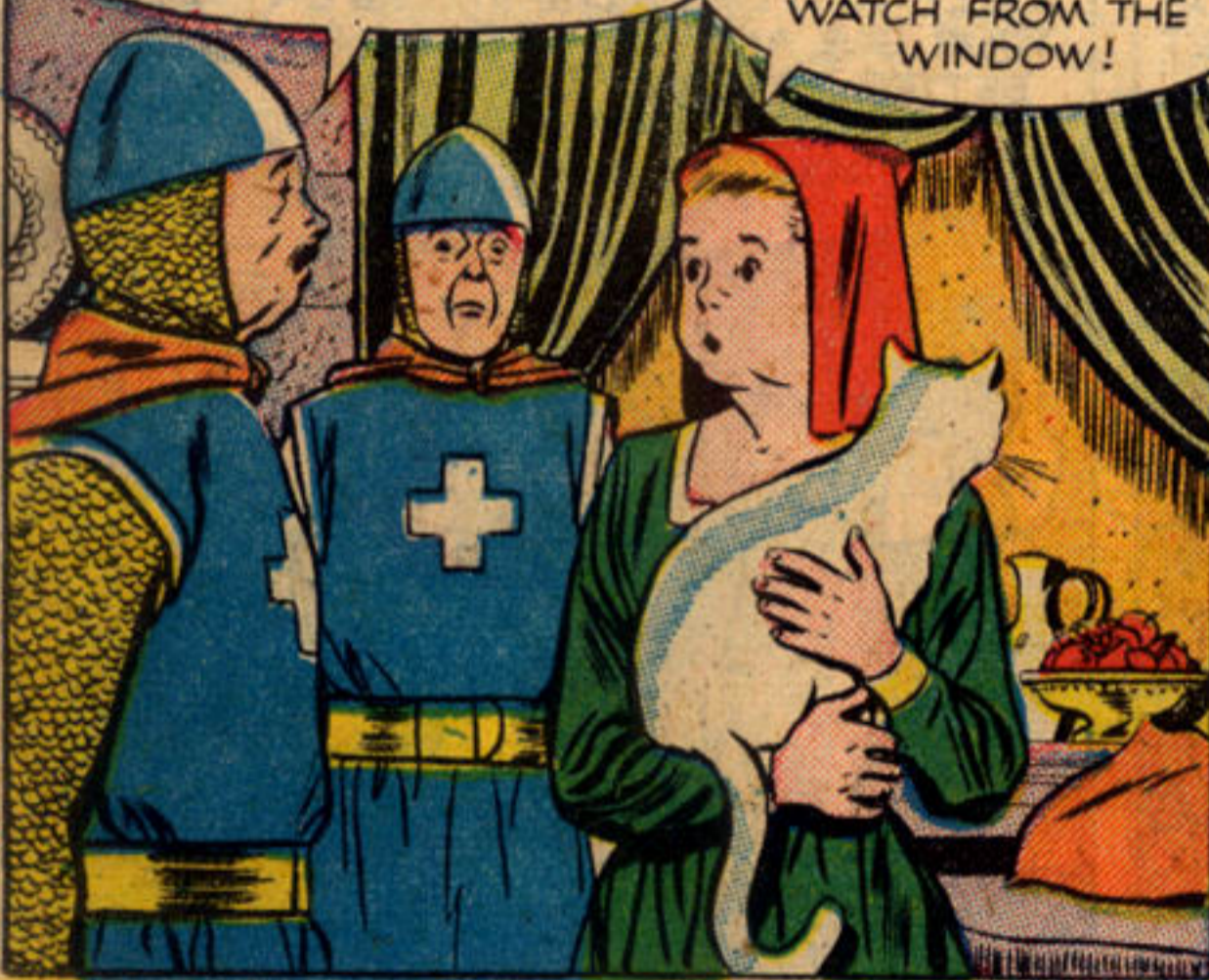


AHH, SABER, IN JUST AN HOUR YOUR STATUE WILL BE UNVEILED! LOOK! SEE ALL THE PEOPLE GATHERED IN YOUR HONOR—TO THINK YOU AND I WILL SIT WITH THE KING AND...BUT WHAT IS THAT? RAINDROPS?

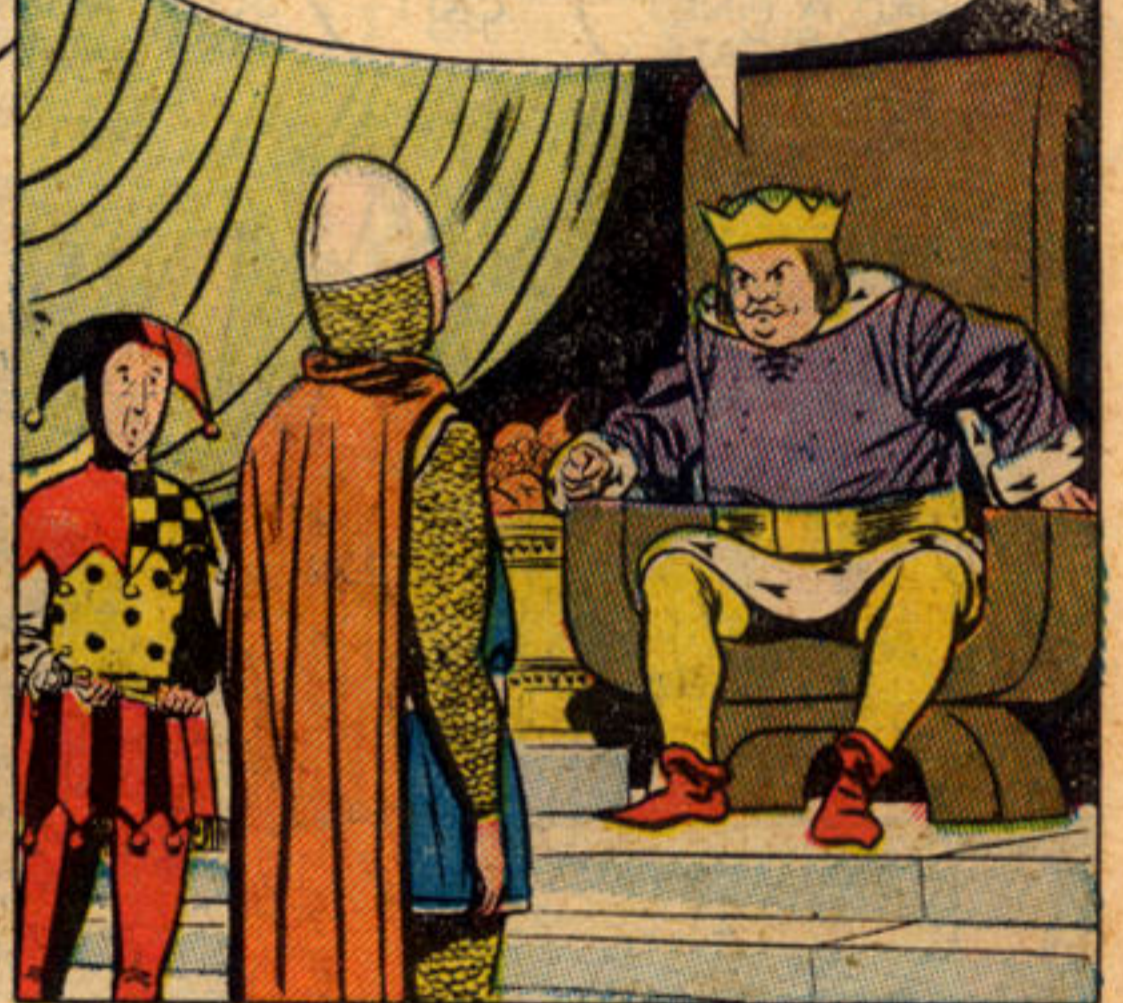


WE ARE THE HONOR GUARD SENT BY THE KING TO ESCORT YOU AND SABER TO THE UNVEILING CEREMONY!

HE CANNOT GO! TELL THE KING THAT SABER HAS THE SNIFFLES AND MUST WATCH FROM THE WINDOW!

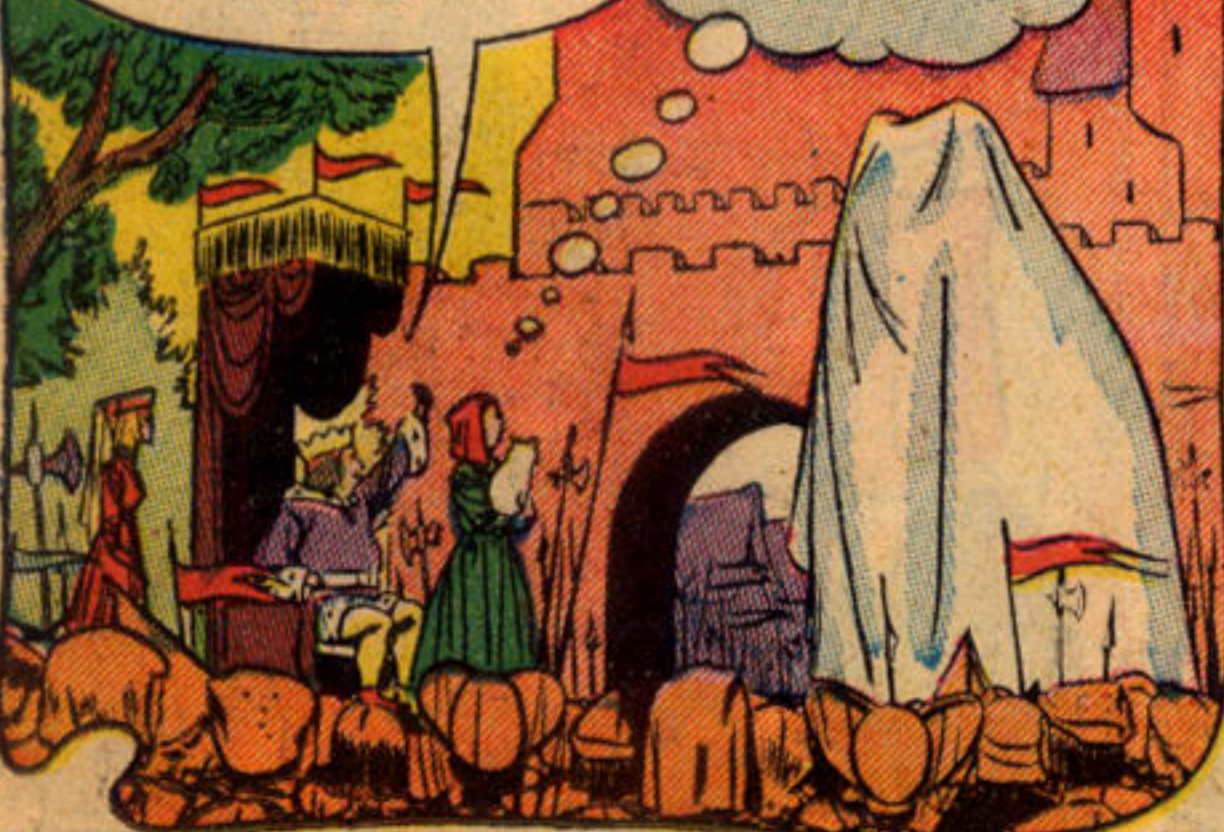


PREPOSTEROUS! FETCH SABER AT ONCE! HE MUST BE PRESENT AT THE UNVEILING OF HIS OWN STATUE!

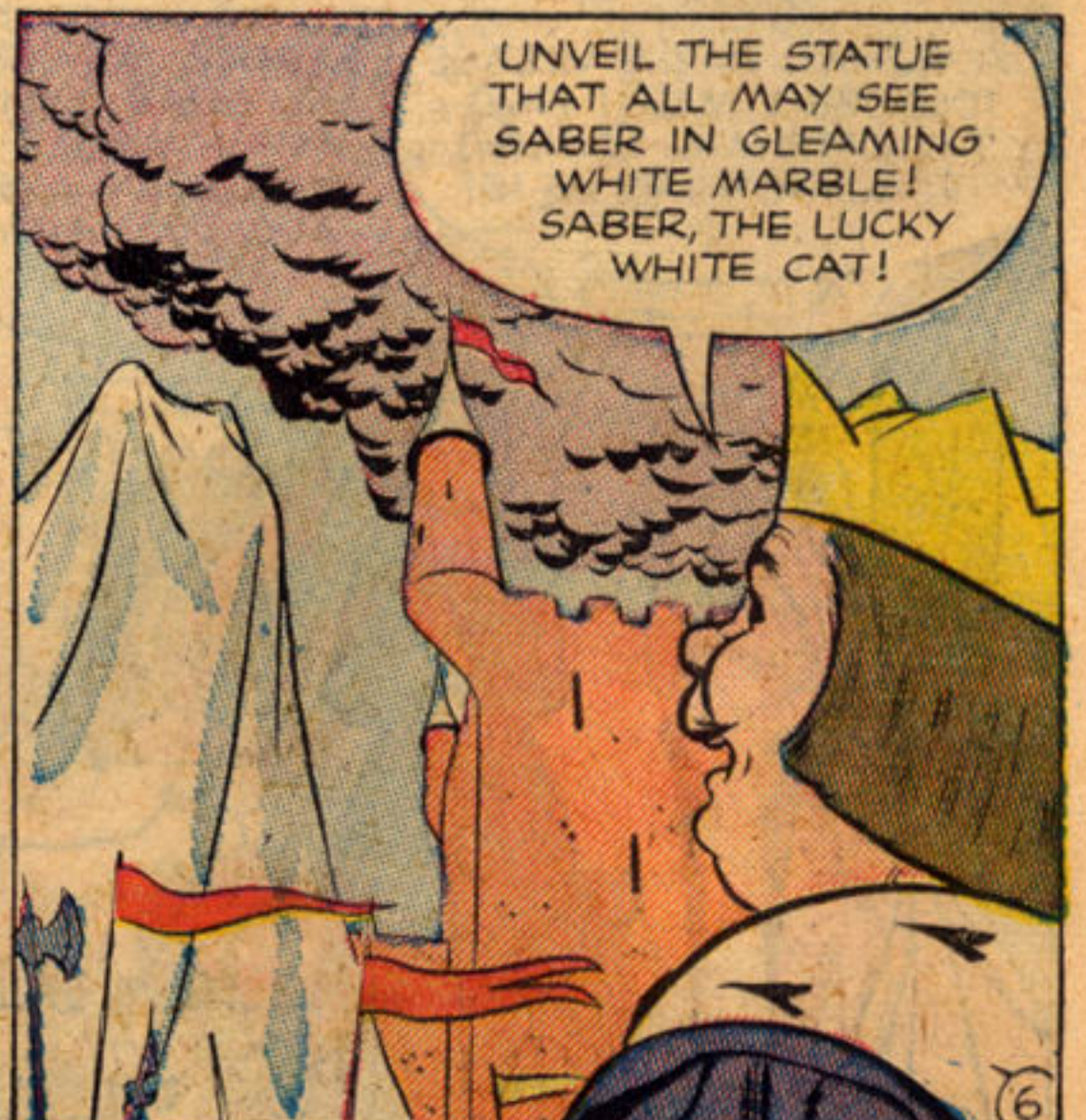


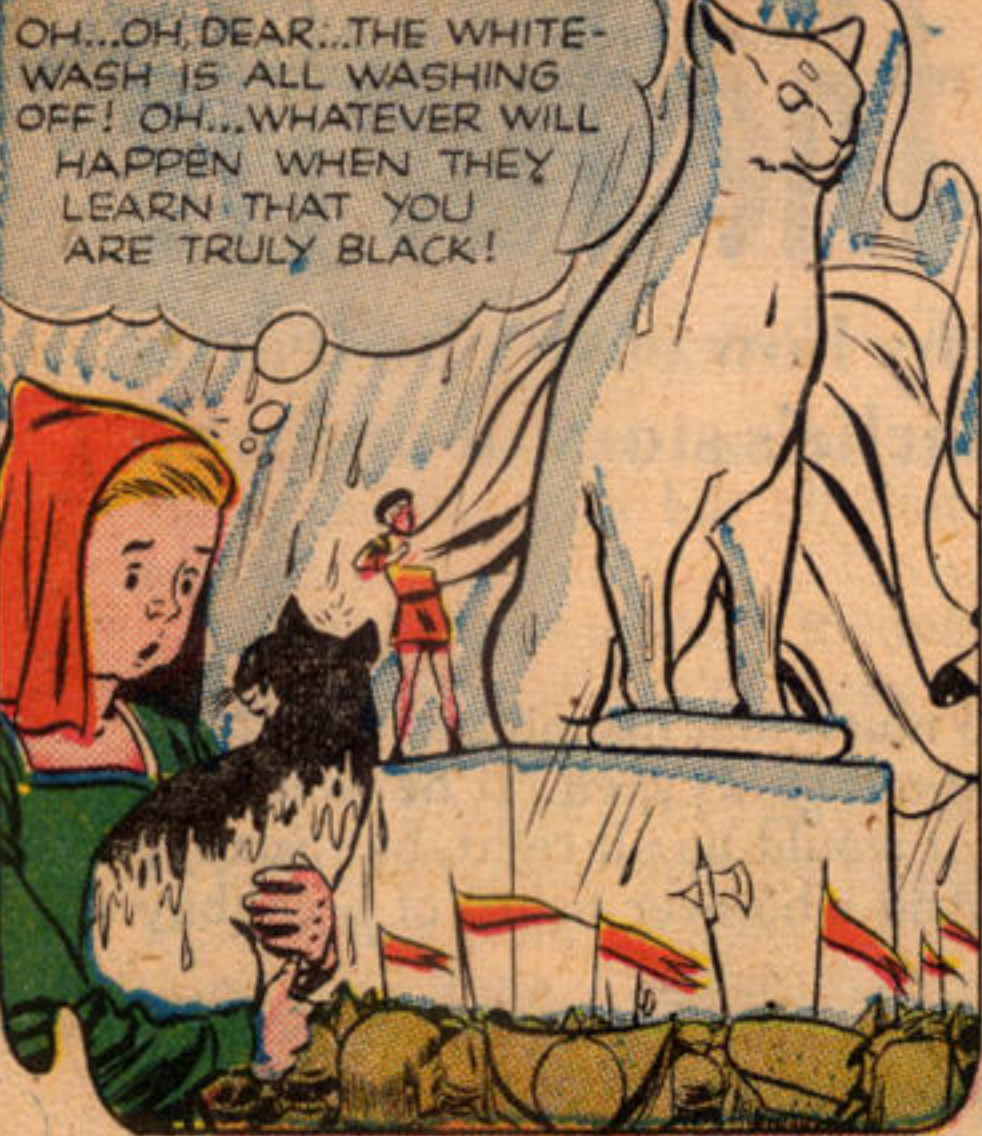
TODAY WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO WITNESS THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF SABER, THE CAT WHO HAS BROUGHT GREAT LUCK TO OUR KINGDOM!

OH, MERCY—THE SKIES ARE DARKER! IF IT RAINS, SABER'S WHITE-WASH WILL COME OFF!



UNVEIL THE STATUE THAT ALL MAY SEE SABER IN GLEAMING WHITE MARBLE! SABER, THE LUCKY WHITE CAT!

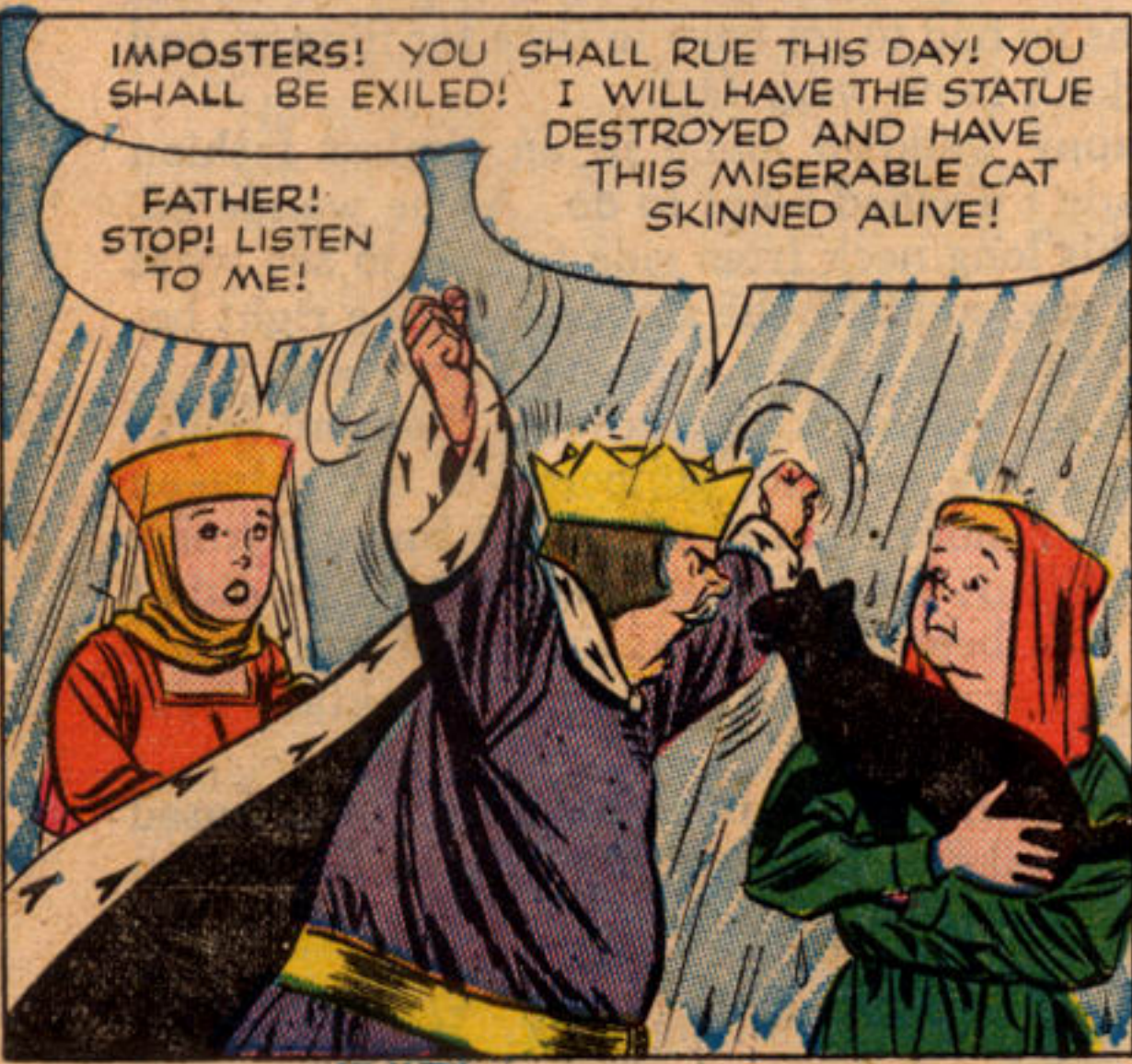




OH...OH, DEAR...THE WHITE-WASH IS ALL WASHING OFF! OH...WHATEVER WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY LEARN THAT YOU ARE TRULY BLACK!



LOOK! HA, HA, HA, HA! THE KING'S PET IS A BLACK CAT! A WHITE MARBLE STATUE TO A BLACK CAT! HA, HA, HA, HA! A BLACK CAT FOR LUCK! HO, HO, HO!



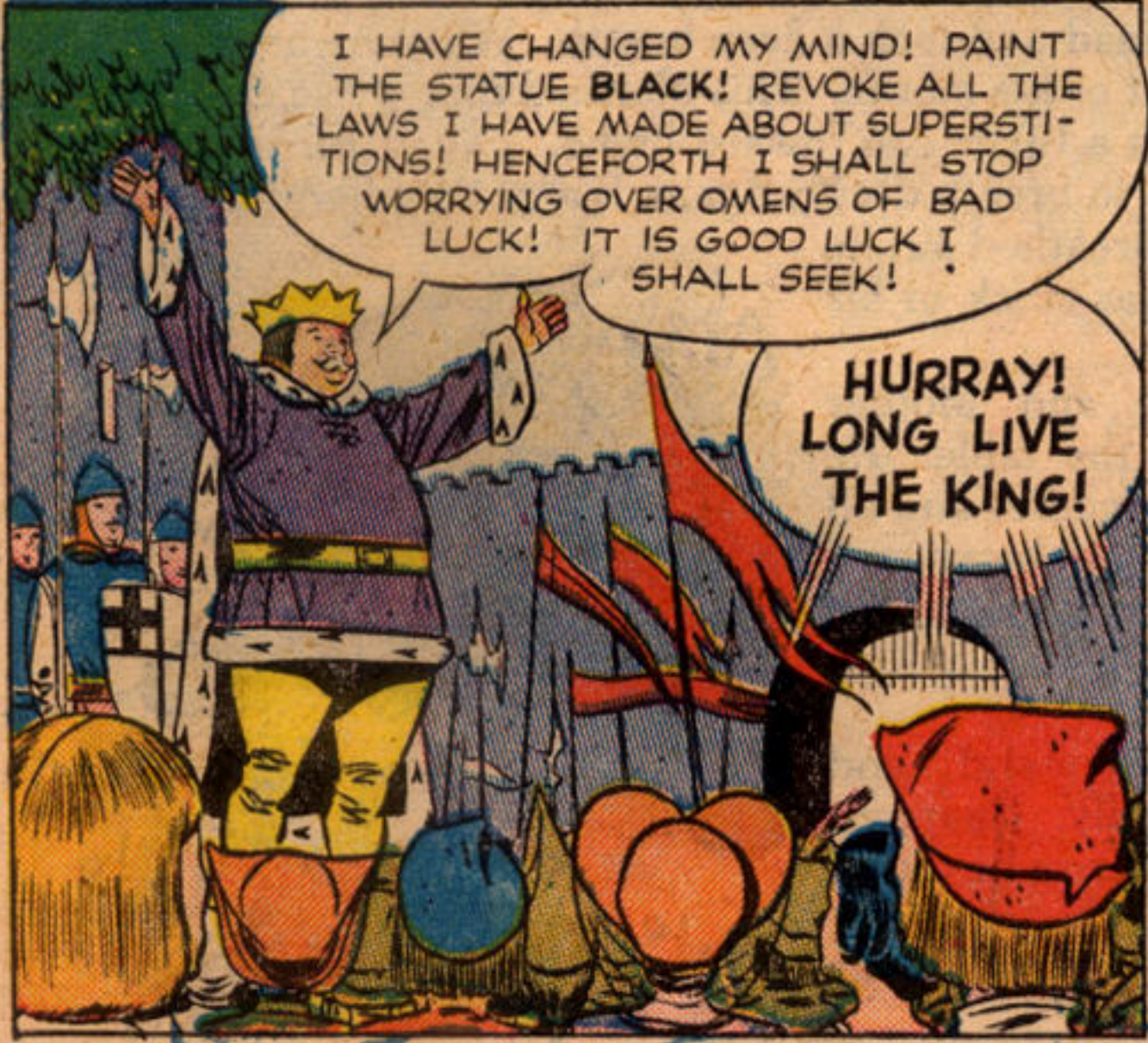
IMPOSTERS! YOU SHALL RUE THIS DAY! YOU SHALL BE EXILED! I WILL HAVE THE STATUE DESTROYED AND HAVE THIS MISERABLE CAT SKINNED ALIVE!

FATHER! STOP! LISTEN TO ME!



WHITE OR BLACK, SABER BROUGHT YOU LUCK! THAT PROVES HOW FOOLISH YOUR SUPERSTITIONS ARE! YOU CANNOT DENY HE SAVED MY LIFE! YOU MUST BE FAIR!

HMM...YOU ARE RIGHT... YOU ARE RIGHT!



I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND! PAINT THE STATUE BLACK! REVOKE ALL THE LAWS I HAVE MADE ABOUT SUPERSTITIONS! HENCEFORTH I SHALL STOP WORRYING OVER OMENS OF BAD LUCK! IT IS GOOD LUCK I SHALL SEEK!

HURRAY! LONG LIVE THE KING!



And to this day, in the kingdom there stands a huge black statue of Saber, the lucky black cat!

Saber, the lucky black cat The End

Snappy, the turtle

Even a turtle's brains are measured by how easily he learns a lesson. You'll like your Uncle Charlie's story of one who bit off more than he could chew.



Snappy ate so much that his mother was afraid he would pop right out of his shell. If he would eat just at meal time, it would be all right, but Snappy ate all the time. And who ever heard of a chubby turtle?

One winter evening, just before dinner, Snappy decided to go outside and see what new adventure he could find. There was not time to get his friend Snippy as he had to get back in time for dinner, and turtles don't move very fast.

Snappy waddled along in an aimless fashion as he hadn't decided what to do. As he wandered, waving his long neck from side to side to see what he could see, suddenly he stopped. There right beside him was the biggest snail he'd ever seen.

Snappy looked at the snail and the snail didn't move. Snappy couldn't make up his mind. He was not supposed to eat between meals but there was nothing Snappy loved more than snails. And Snappy knew that he wasn't going to have snails for dinner. Snappy also knew that if he didn't eat his dinner his mother would know he'd been nibbling again and that if he ate this snail he wouldn't be able to touch dinner, maybe not even breakfast next morning.

But Snappy loved snails more than anything. He pulled his head in and eased his way quietly toward the snail and the snail did not move. As Snappy came very close to the snail he opened his mouth very wide, shot his head out from under his shell and tried to swallow the snail in one gulp!

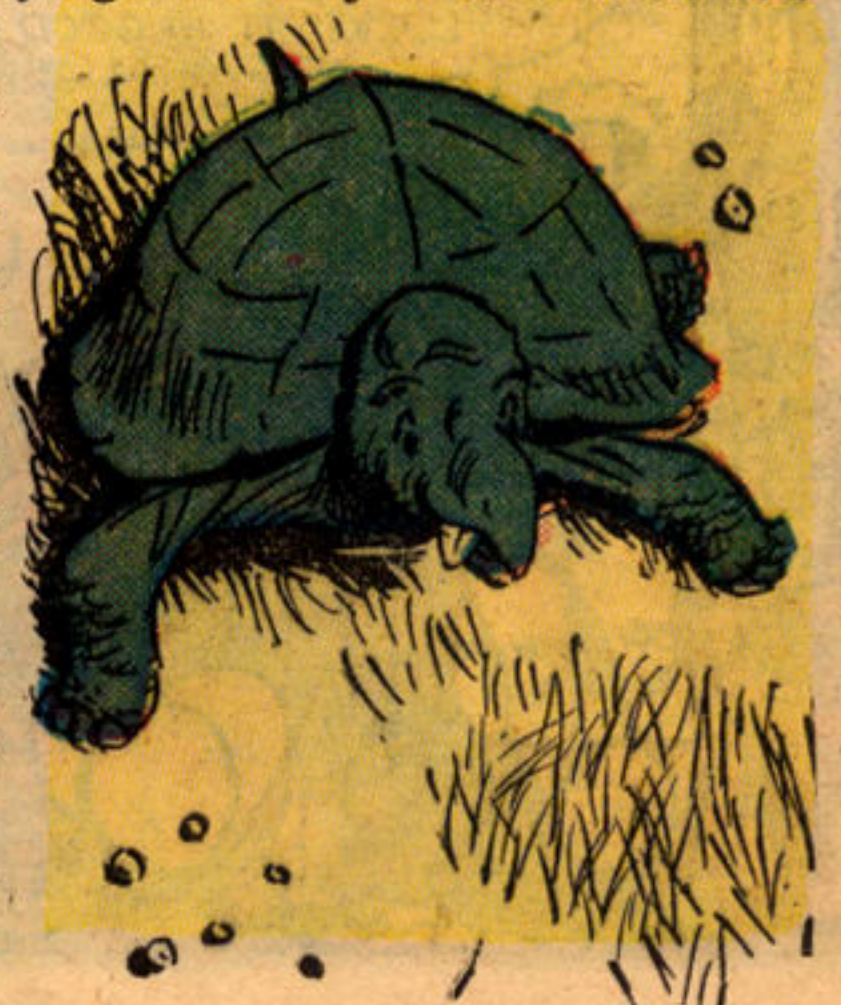
But the snail didn't go all the way down Snappy's long neck. He was so big that he stayed in one place, right in the middle of Snappy's neck. Snappy was so startled he sat down, scratched his head and took a deep breath. When he breathed out a long and loud whistle came out of his mouth. This alarmed Snappy so that he jumped to his feet and ran as fast as a turtle can toward home.

On the way home Snappy tried to breath deeply again. Every time he breathed in it was all right but every time he breathed out he whistled. And still the large snail was stuck in his throat.

Snappy finally reached home and Mother Turtle was just putting dinner on the table. He opened his mouth to say hello to his mother and all that came out was a long whistle. Again he opened his mouth to explain to his mother and father about the big snail and all that came out was a long whistle.

Snappy's mother didn't understand and thought Snappy was just being silly. Snappy's father was busy with the evening paper so he didn't even notice.

"Snappy," said Mother Turtle, "go wash your face before dinner."



Snappy started to say, "Yes, mother," but all that happened was a long whistle. Snappy was worried but he controlled his tears and went to wash his face. He returned and quietly sat down at the table.

"Well, son," said Father Turtle, "what have you been up to today?"

Snappy opened his mouth to say something about the big snail but all that happened was a whistle.

"You'll have to leave the table, Snap," scolded Father Turtle, "if you're going to be so fresh with me!"

Than Snappy broke down. He tried to cry but all he could do was whistle. But because large tears were rolling from his eyes his mother knew something was wrong. Finally, Mother Turtle came over to him and patted him on the shell and said, "Snappy, what is the matter?"

Snappy tried to answer but all he did was whistle and that made him cry all the more. Finally when his whistling sobs calmed down, Snappy tried to use sign language and show his mother what was wrong.

He pointed to his mouth and his mother said, "Are you hungry, Snappy? If you are why don't you eat your dinner?"

Snappy shook his head and then pointed to his throat. His mother then said, "Have you a sore throat, Snappy?"

Again Snappy shook his head. Finally he got his mother to feel his throat and she felt the big snail that was stuck there. "Oh, Snappy, what is that?" she cried.

Snappy tried to answer but all he could do was whistle. However, Mother Turtle now understood and was doing everything she could to help Snappy.

Mother Turtle asked Father Turtle to slap Snappy hard on the back to make him cough. Father Turtle slapped Snappy's shell as hard as he could, but Snappy's shell was so tough he couldn't feel a thing.

Snappy was still whistling and crying and Mother and Father Turtle didn't know what to do next. Then Mother thought if they held Snappy upside down that might work.

Father Turtle grabbed Snappy's hind legs and held him high in the air. He shook and shook until the blood rushed to Snappy's head and he whistled such a gasping whistle that Father Turtle had to put him down.

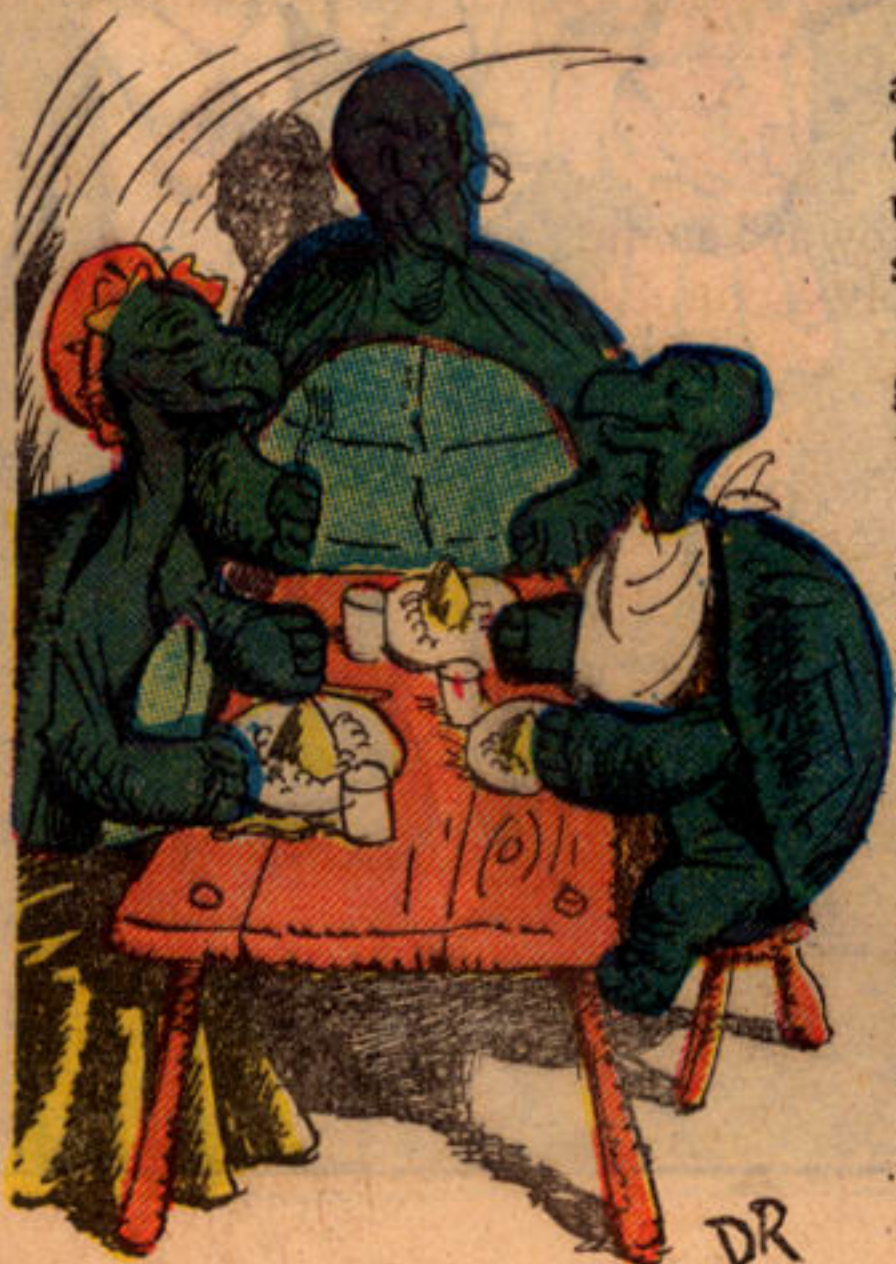
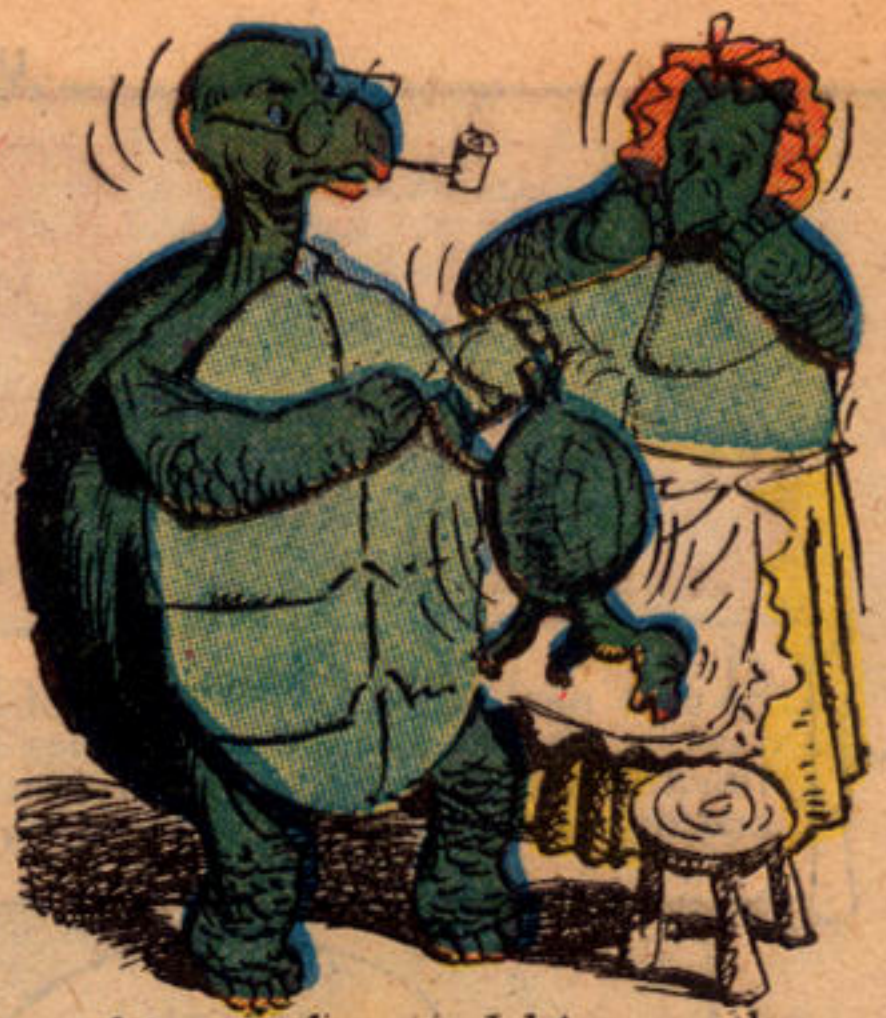
While Snappy was resting and softly whistling after his exertion, Mother Turtle quietly went into the kitchen. She came back as quietly and walked up to the whistling Snappy and suddenly blew something in his face.

Snappy gasped, then he coughed, then he gasped, then suddenly he coughed and out jumped the snail. "Mother," he cried, "The pepper did it!"

"Mother!" Snappy said again, delighted to be able to talk, even though he wheezed from the pepper as he talked. "Have you ever seen such a big snail?"

"Snail?" gasped Snappy's father, "that's not a snail, that's a whistle!"

From that day on Snappy never ate between meals again. Any time he found a snail he took it home for his father to examine, then they saved it for dinner. Mother Turtle stopped worrying about Snappy popping out of his shell because he ate so much. And Snappy, really, was glad because now he enjoyed his dinner more than he ever had before.



THE BARON and the CHIMNEY SWEEP

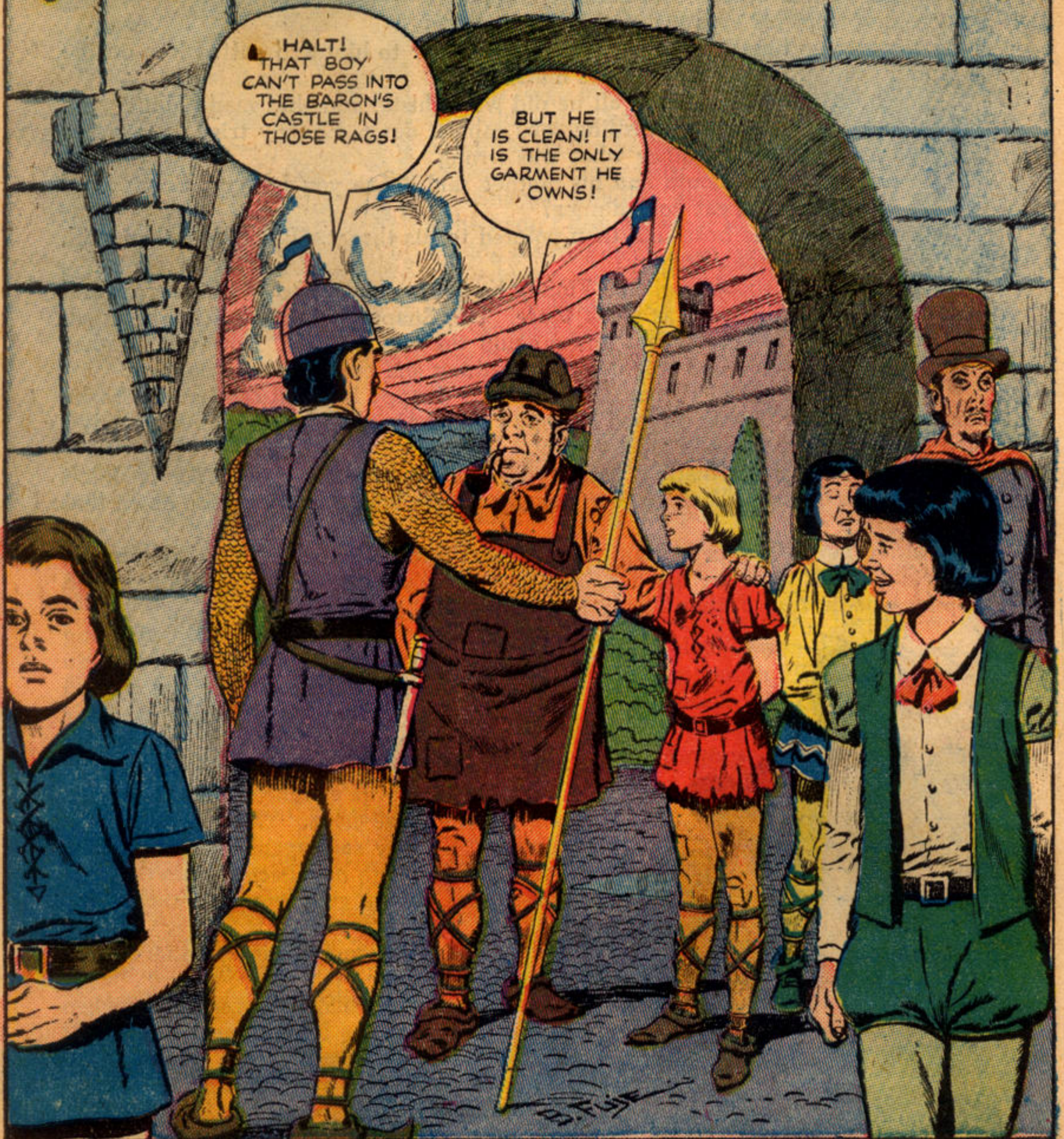
I will now tell you the story of a wise old baron who lived many centuries ago and ruled his people with a gentle hand. Every-one in his vast domain was happy, except

one — the baron himself — for he had no heir to carry on in his place, and had few days left to live ...

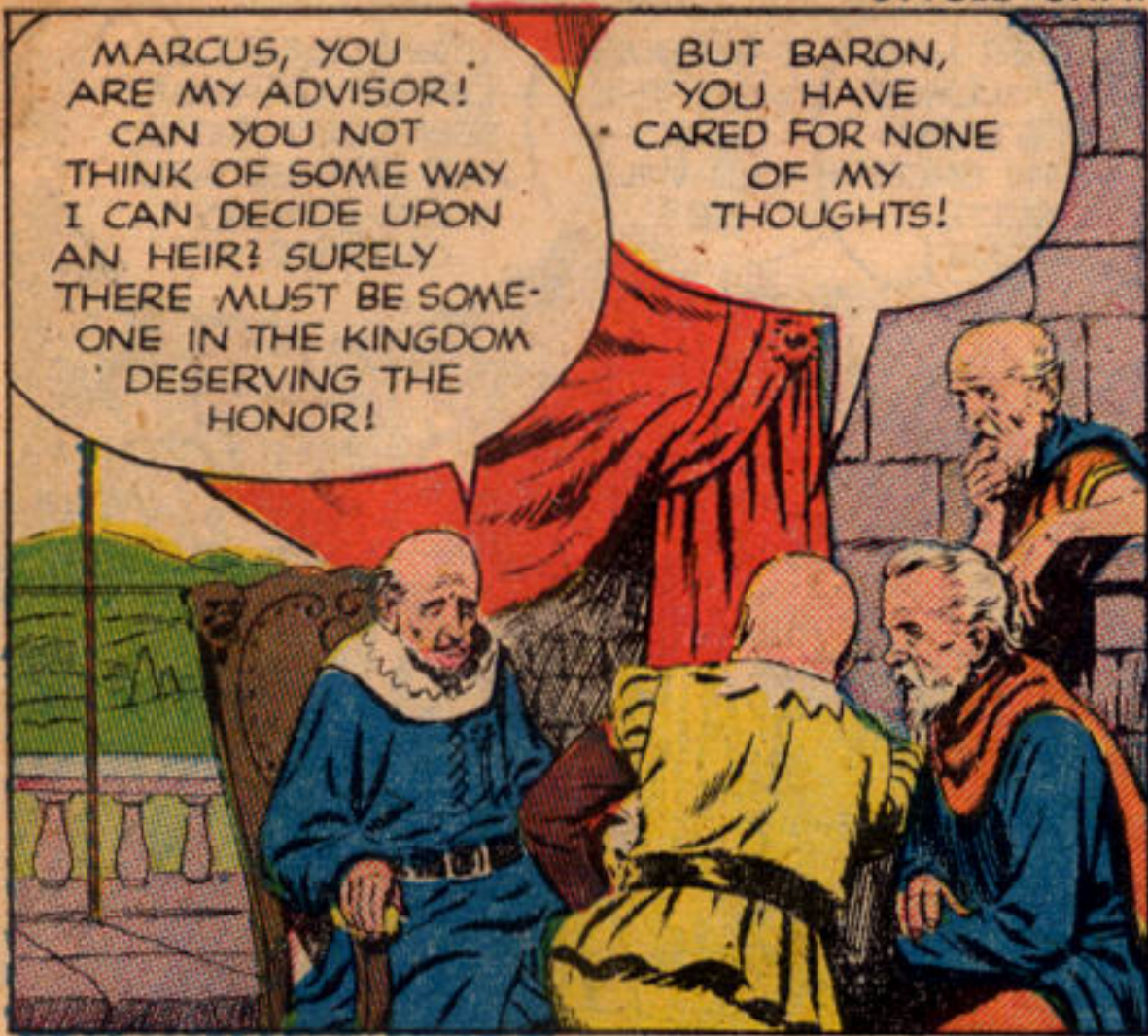
(UNCLE) CHARLIE BIRO

HALT!
THAT BOY
CAN'T PASS INTO
THE BARON'S
CASTLE IN
THOSE RAGS!

BUT HE
IS CLEAN! IT
IS THE ONLY
GARMENT HE
OWNS!



UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES



MARCUS, YOU ARE MY ADVISOR! CAN YOU NOT THINK OF SOME WAY I CAN DECIDE UPON AN HEIR? SURELY THERE MUST BE SOMEONE IN THE KINGDOM DESERVING THE HONOR!

BUT BARON, YOU HAVE CARED FOR NONE OF MY THOUGHTS!



THEY WERE ALL EMPTY! YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF WHY NONE OF YOU COULD FILL MY SHOES AS HEIR! AH, WELL, GO... I SHALL TRY TO THINK OF A WAY MYSELF!



OUR BARON WILL NOT LIVE MUCH LONGER! ALREADY HE HAS OUTLIVED EVERY MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY!

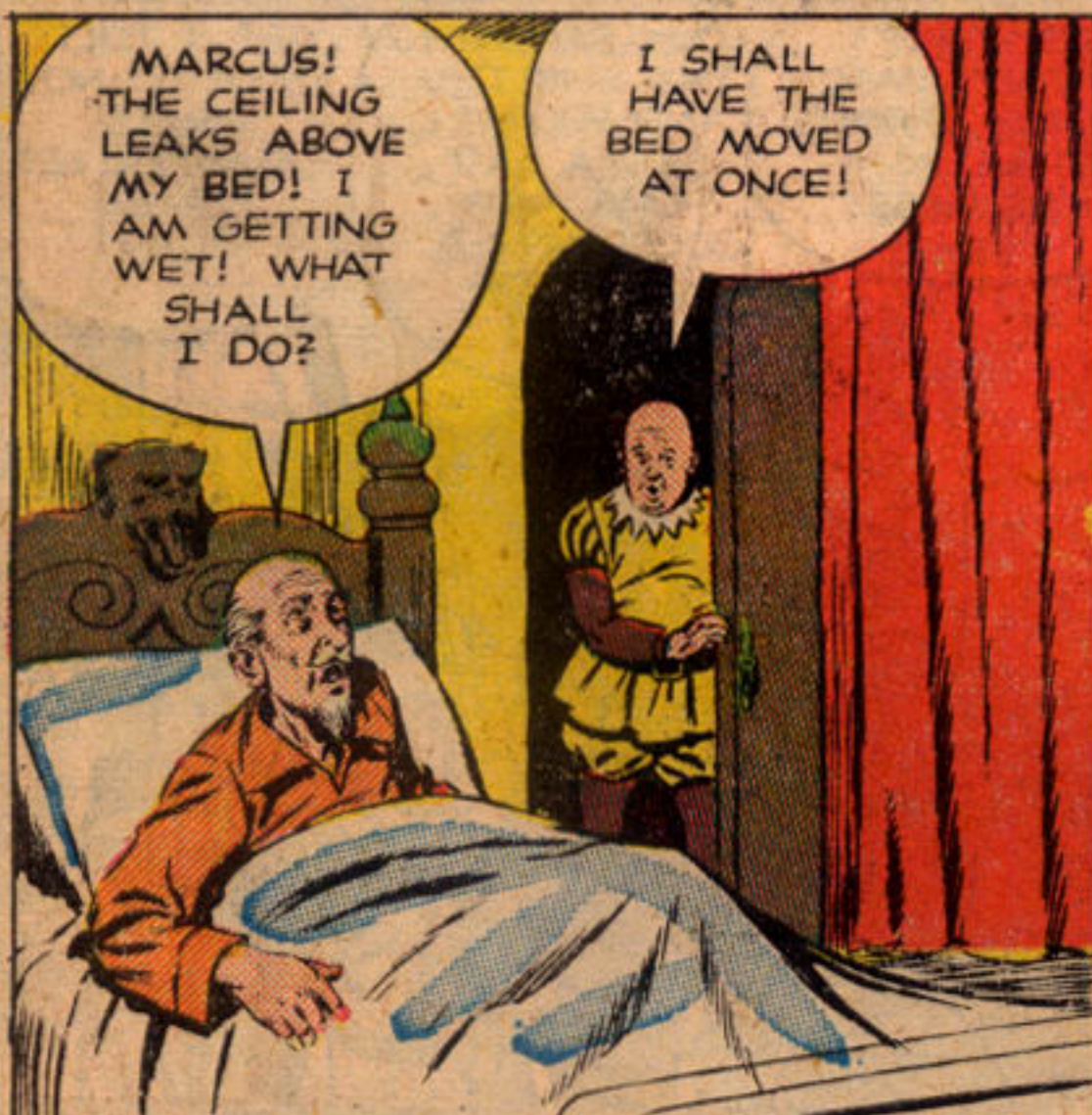
BEFORE HE DIES WE MUST FIND SOMEONE! THE FATE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE DEPENDS ON WHO INHERITS THE BARON'S LAND AND TITLE!



NONE OF THE YOUNG MEN OF ROYAL BLOOD THAT I HAVE MET HAVE THE QUALITY I SEEK, BUT I MUST FIND AN HEIR BEFORE I PASS ON!



PLUNK



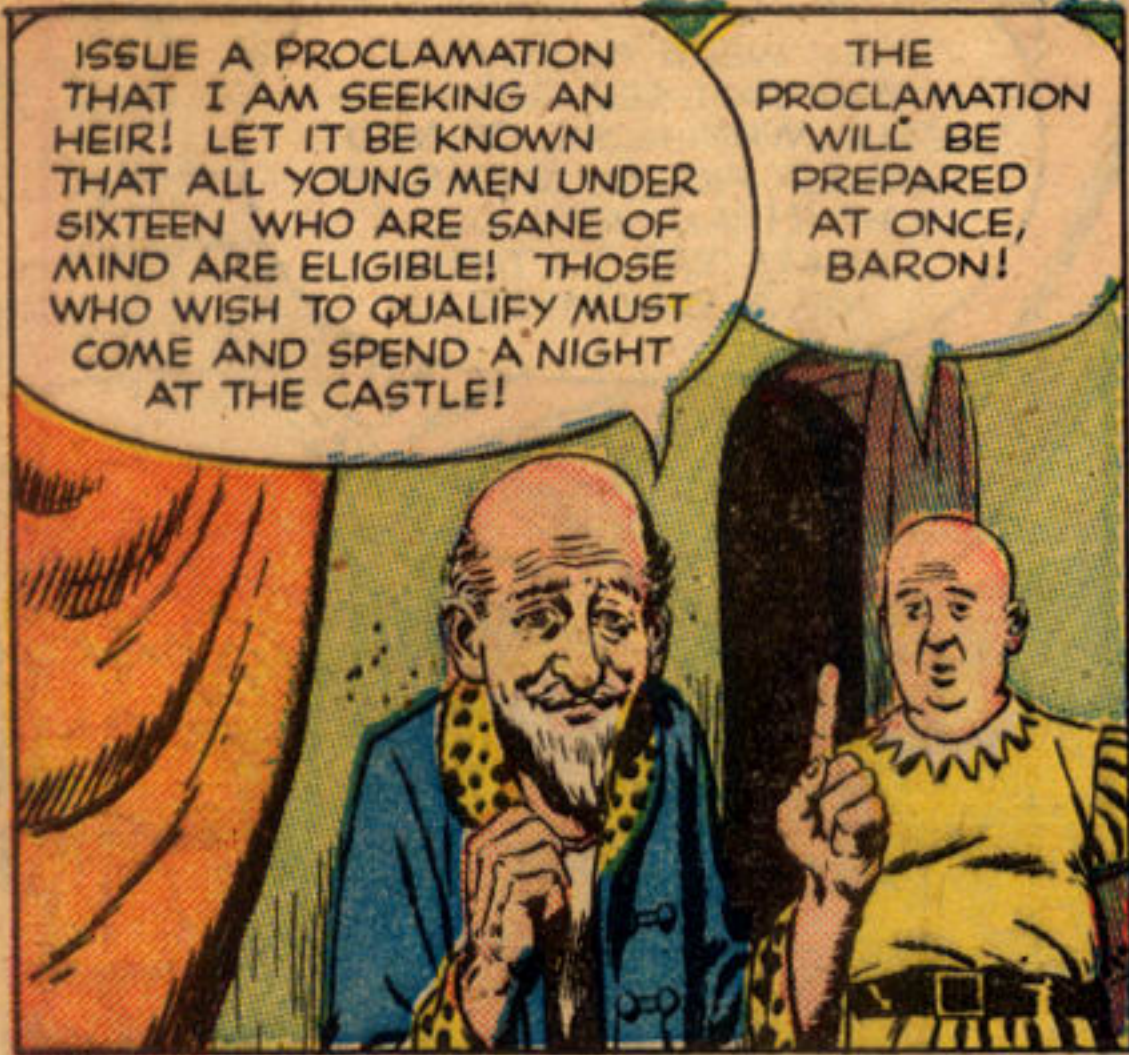
MARCUS! THE CEILING LEAKS ABOVE MY BED! I AM GETTING WET! WHAT SHALL I DO?

I SHALL HAVE THE BED MOVED AT ONCE!



AH-HA! AT LAST I HAVE A TEST TO CHOOSE AN HEIR, MARCUS— AND LET ME ADD YOU HAVE ALREADY DISQUALIFIED YOURSELF! THIS LEAK WAS HEAVEN SENT!

PLUNK!
PLUNK!



ISSUE A PROCLAMATION THAT I AM SEEKING AN HEIR! LET IT BE KNOWN THAT ALL YOUNG MEN UNDER SIXTEEN WHO ARE SANE OF MIND ARE ELIGIBLE! THOSE WHO WISH TO QUALIFY MUST COME AND SPEND A NIGHT AT THE CASTLE!

THE PROCLAMATION WILL BE PREPARED AT ONCE, BARON!



NEVER HAS THE VILLAGE SEETHED WITH SUCH EXCITEMENT!

I WONDER WHO THE LUCKY LAD WILL BE?

COME, CHARLIE, LET US GO HOME! YOU MUST BATHE AND CHANGE INTO YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES!

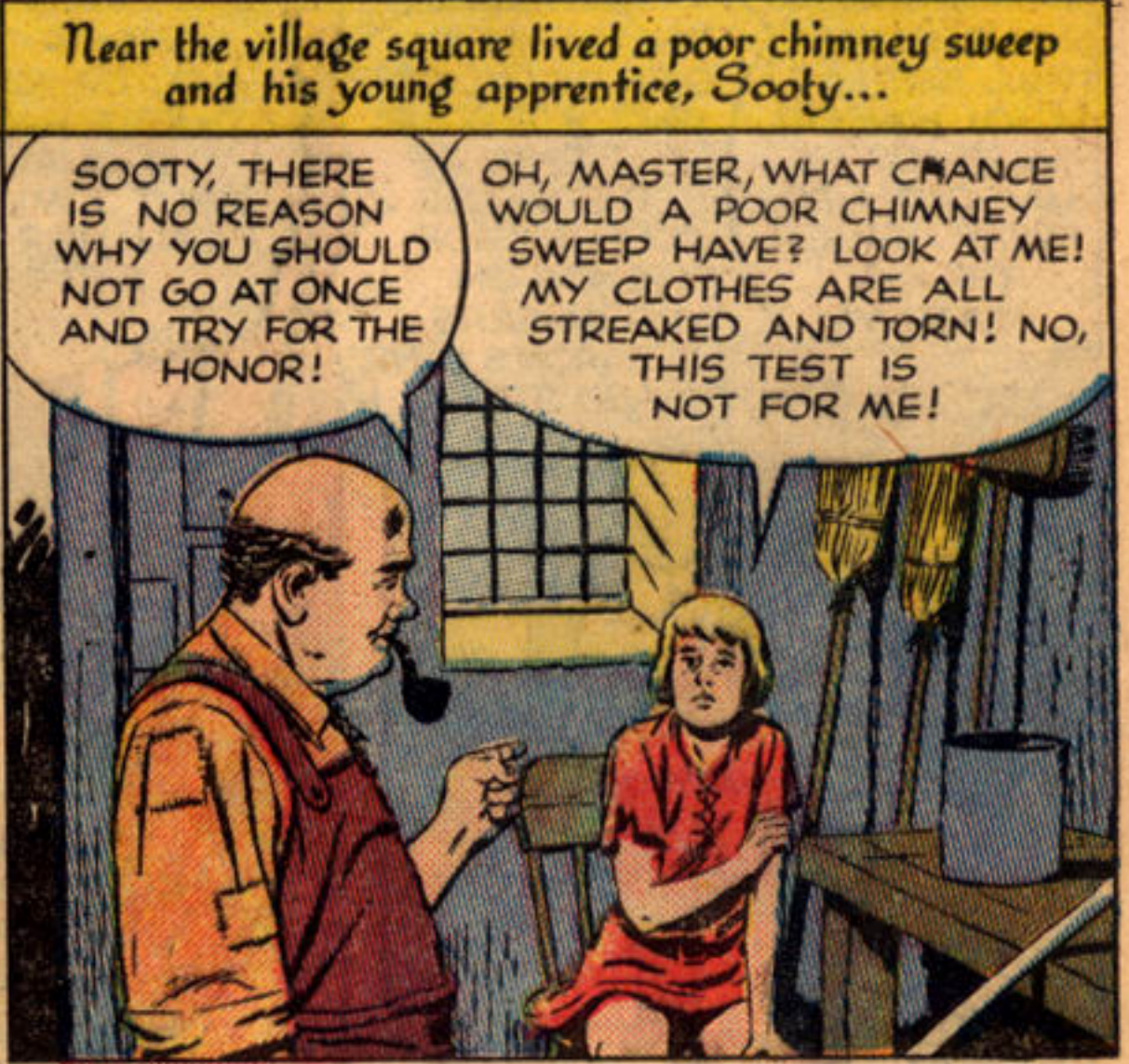
Boys came from every part of the Baron's domain...



SHOULD HE CHOOSE ME, I COULD AFFORD TO EAT PASTRIES ALL DAY LONG!

IF I'M THE LUCKY ONE, NEVER AGAIN WILL I RISE AT DAWN TO MILK THE COWS!

OF COURSE HE WILL CHOOSE ME!

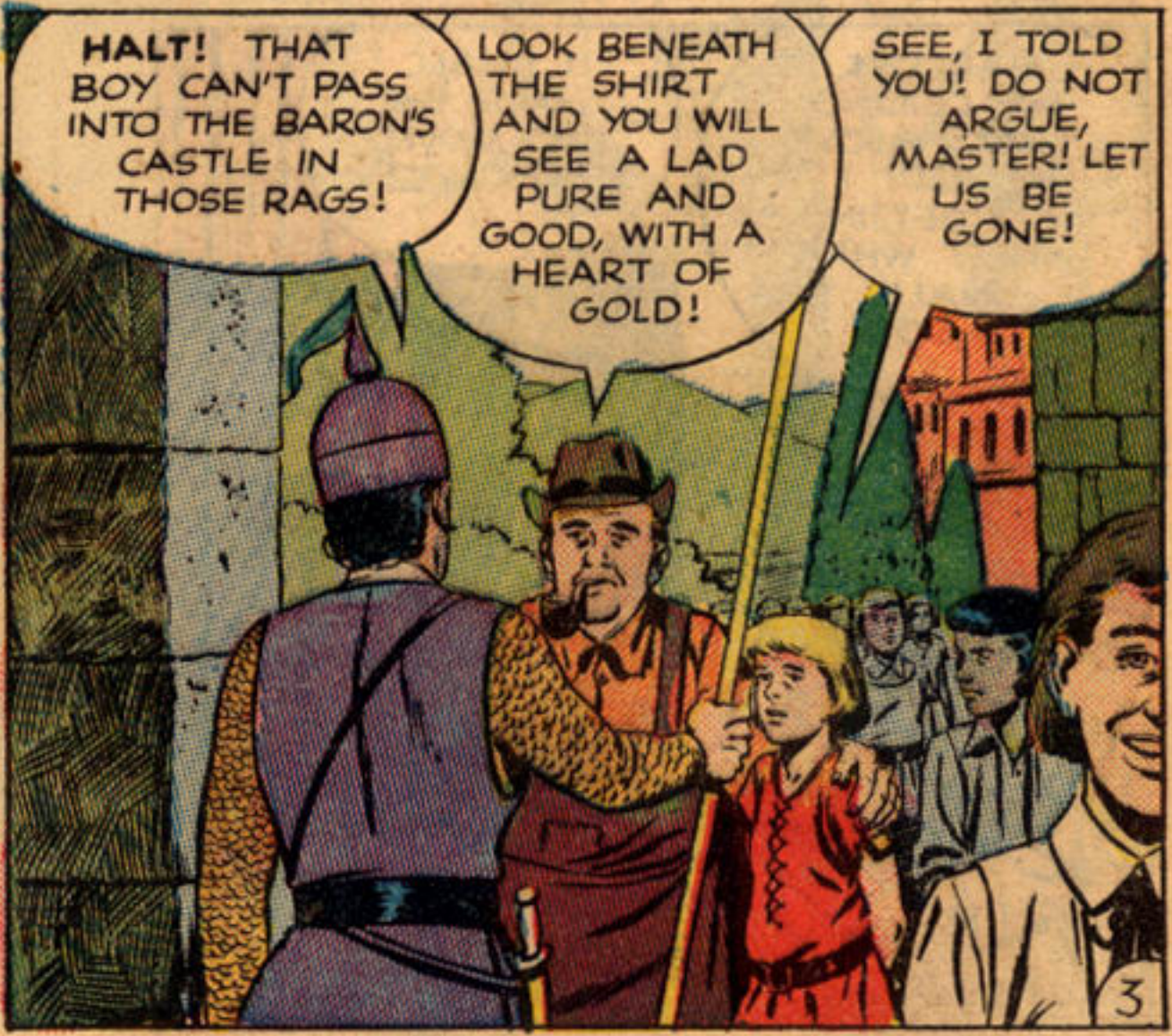


SOOTY, THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU SHOULD NOT GO AT ONCE AND TRY FOR THE HONOR!

OH, MASTER, WHAT CHANCE WOULD A POOR CHIMNEY SWEEP HAVE? LOOK AT ME! MY CLOTHES ARE ALL STREAKED AND TORN! NO, THIS TEST IS NOT FOR ME!



WHAT ARE CLOTHES? I KNOW YOU TO BE A GOOD LAD! YOU ARE EVERY INCH AS CLEVER AS ANY OF THE OTHERS ON THEIR WAY TO THE CASTLE! COME...



HALT! THAT BOY CAN'T PASS INTO THE BARON'S CASTLE IN THOSE RAGS!

LOOK BENEATH THE SHIRT AND YOU WILL SEE A LAD PURE AND GOOD, WITH A HEART OF GOLD!

SEE, I TOLD YOU! DO NOT ARGUE, MASTER! LET US BE GONE!



I AM GOING TO PAY YOU YOUR MONTH'S WAGES IN ADVANCE SO THAT YOU MAY BUY A FINE NEW SHIRT!

YOU ARE KIND, BUT I AM NOT THE SORT THE BARON IS SEEKING!



YOU MAY PASS NOW, CHIMNEY SWEEP, BUT YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, I'M AFRAID!

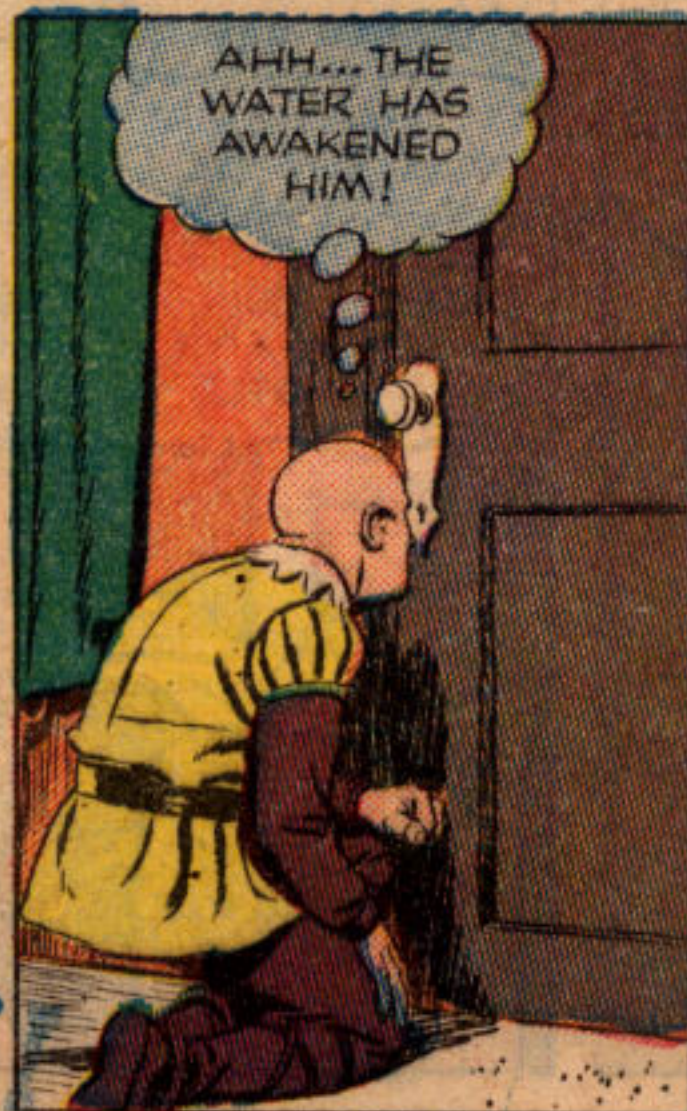
OH, NO, HE'S NOT! GOOD LUCK, SOOTY! I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN YOU!

I WILL DO MY BEST!



ALL THE BOYS HAVE GONE TO THEIR BEDROOMS! OVER EACH BED A HOLE HAS BEEN DRILLED AND THE SERVANTS ARE READY TO DRIP THE WATER!

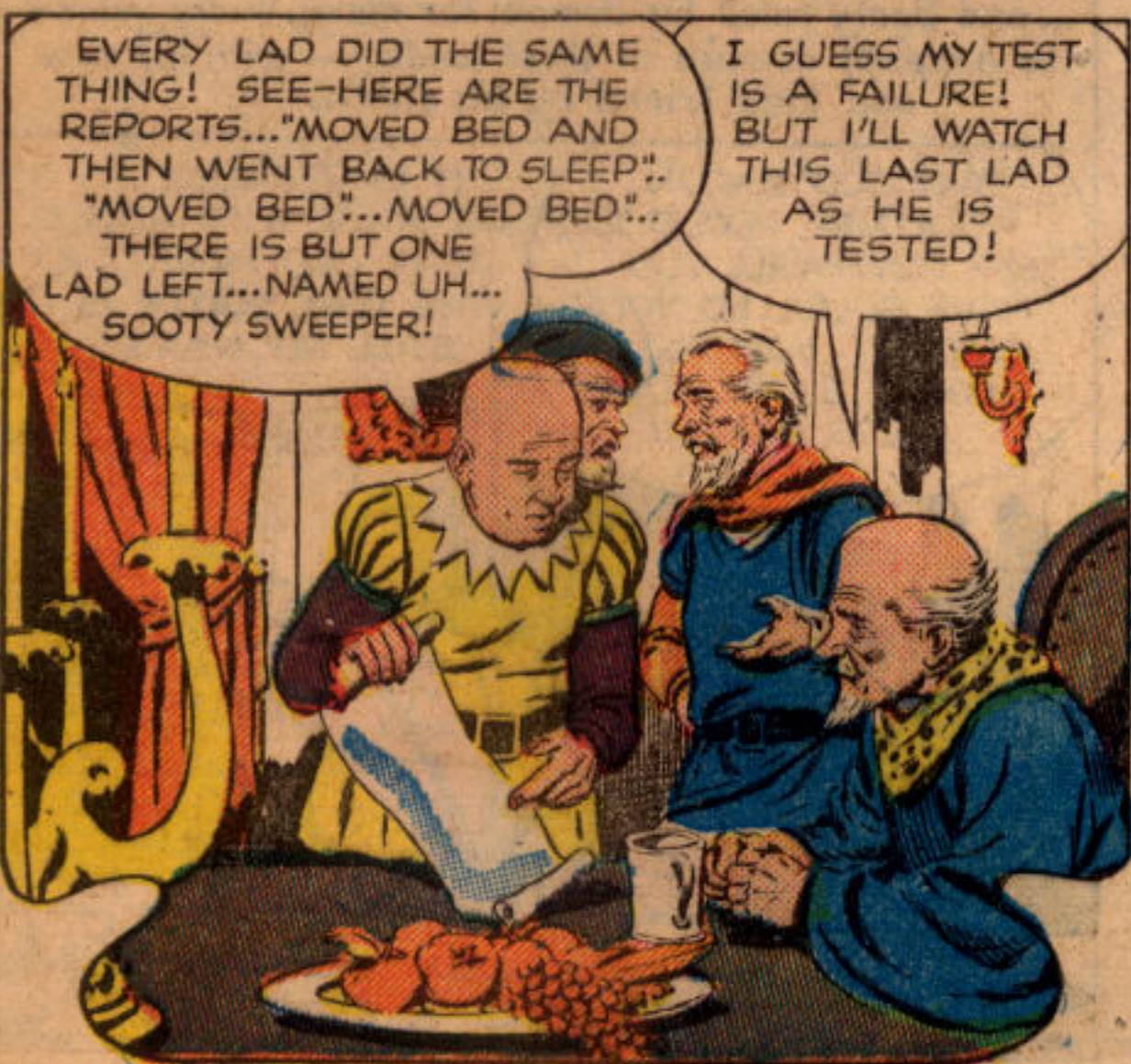
GOOD! LET THEM PROCEED AND BE CERTAIN AN OBSERVER IS AT EACH KEYHOLE TO OBSERVE WHAT HAPPENS!



AHH... THE WATER HAS AWAKENED HIM!



LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, HE, TOO, MOVED THE BED!



EVERY LAD DID THE SAME THING! SEE--HERE ARE THE REPORTS... "MOVED BED AND THEN WENT BACK TO SLEEP". "MOVED BED"... "MOVED BED"... THERE IS BUT ONE LAD LEFT... NAMED UH... SOOTY SWEEPER!

I GUESS MY TEST IS A FAILURE! BUT I'LL WATCH THIS LAST LAD AS HE IS TESTED!



HE WILL DO LIKE ALL THE REST! YOUR TEST PROVES NOTHING!

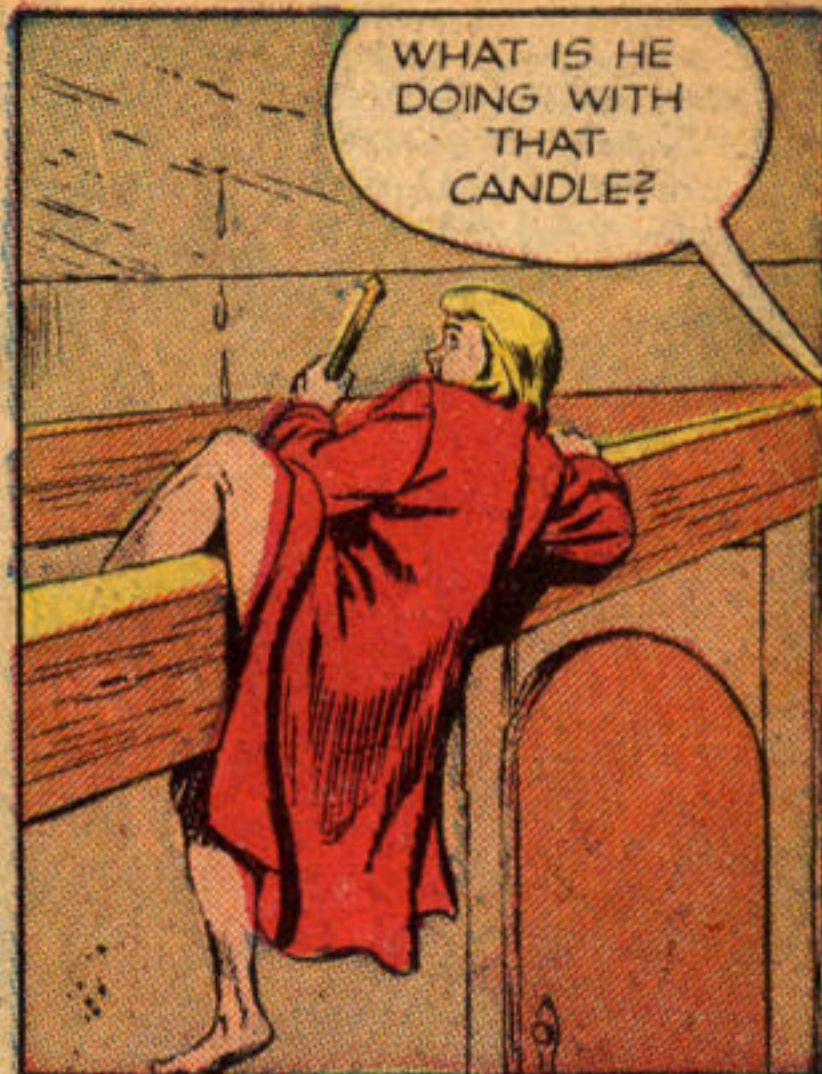
HE IS MY LAST HOPE! IN ALL THE REALM THERE MUST BE ONE BOY WITH IMAGINATION!



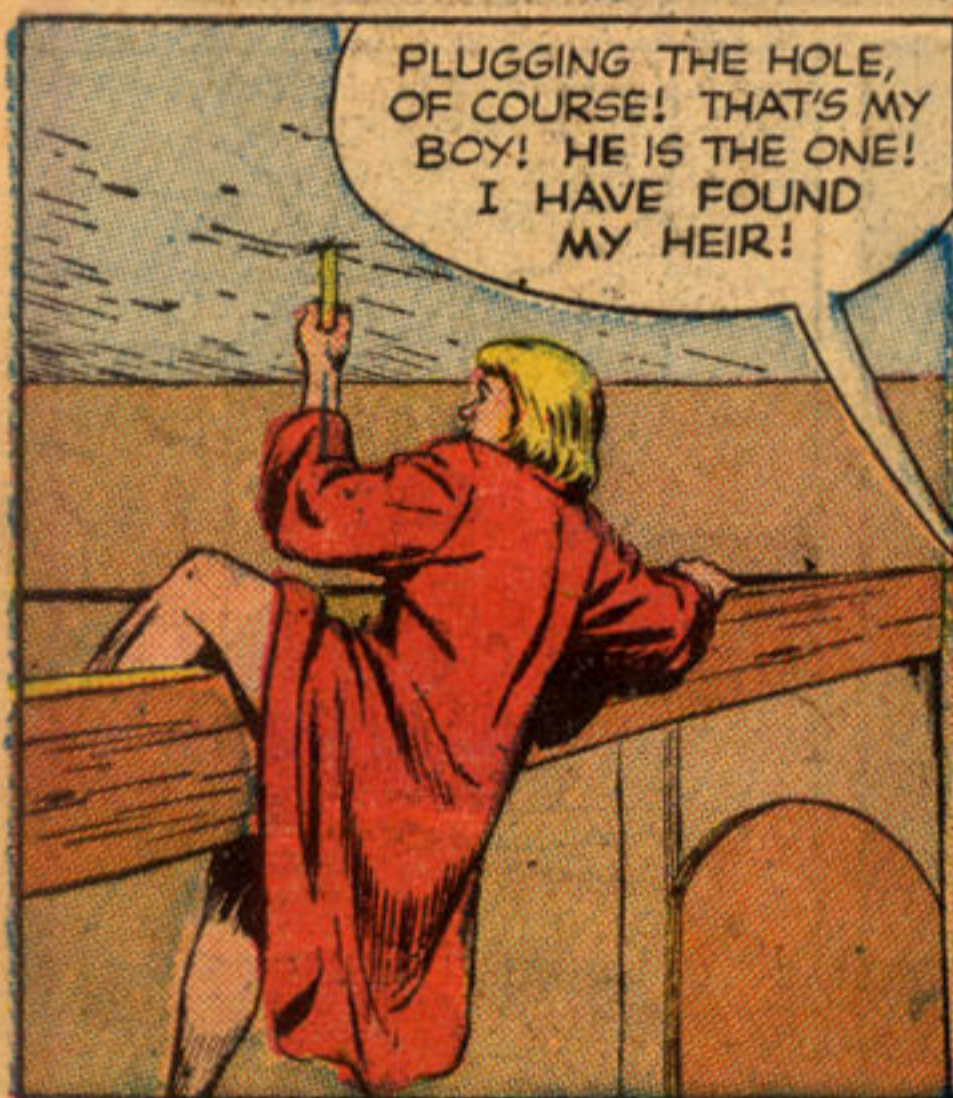
THERE YOU ARE! I TOLD YOU SO! HE, TOO, HAS MOVED HIS BED! NOW HE WILL GO BACK IN AND GO TO SLEEP LIKE ALL THE REST!



WAIT! LOOK!



WHAT IS HE DOING WITH THAT CANDLE?



PLUGGING THE HOLE, OF COURSE! THAT'S MY BOY! HE IS THE ONE! I HAVE FOUND MY HEIR!

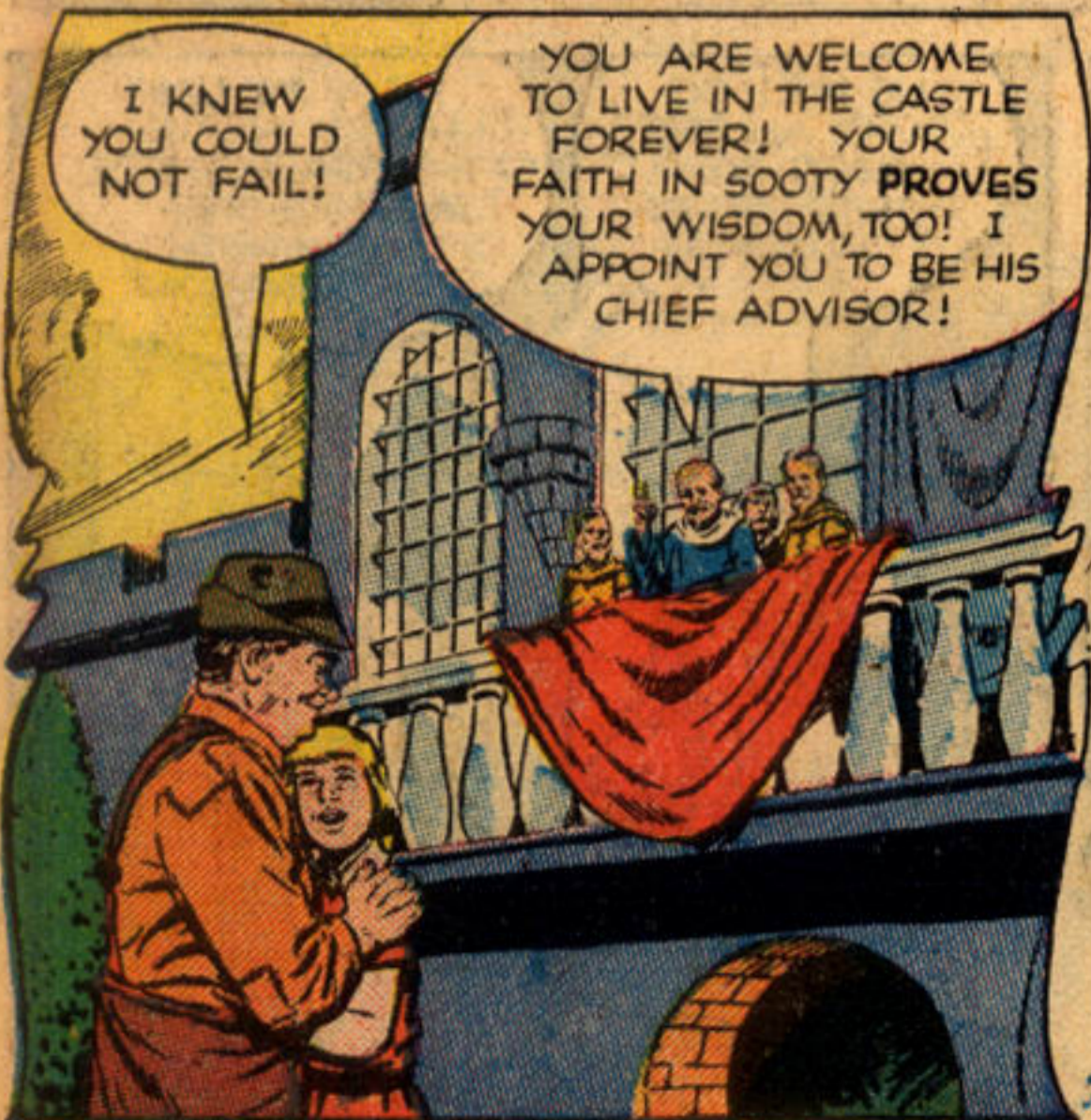


The next day...

I HAVE CHOSEN! THERE WAS BUT ONE LAD, SOOTY SWEEPER, WHO SHOWED IMAGINATION AND INGENUITY! HE IS TO BE MY HEIR, AND HENCEFORTH LIVE AT THE CASTLE WITH ME!

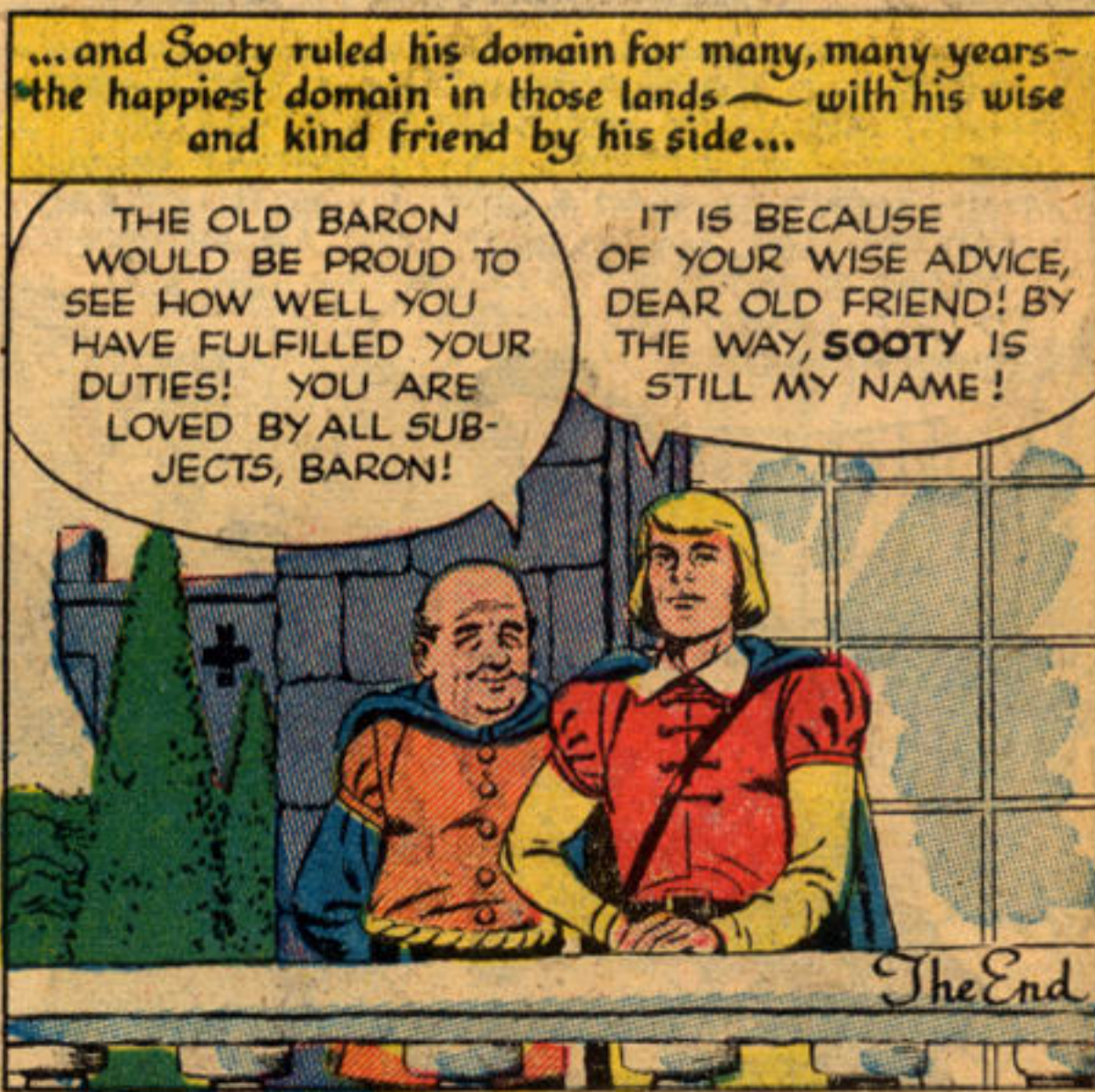
THANK YOU, YOUR LORDSHIP, BUT I CANNOT LIVE HERE—NOT WHILE MY KIND MASTER IS NOT ALLOWED TO PASS THE GATES! I OWE MY GOOD FORTUNE TO HIM!

GUARD, LET THAT GOOD MAN PASS!



I KNEW YOU COULD NOT FAIL!

YOU ARE WELCOME TO LIVE IN THE CASTLE FOREVER! YOUR FAITH IN SOOTY PROVES YOUR WISDOM, TOO! I APPOINT YOU TO BE HIS CHIEF ADVISOR!



... and Sooty ruled his domain for many, many years—the happiest domain in those lands—with his wise and kind friend by his side...

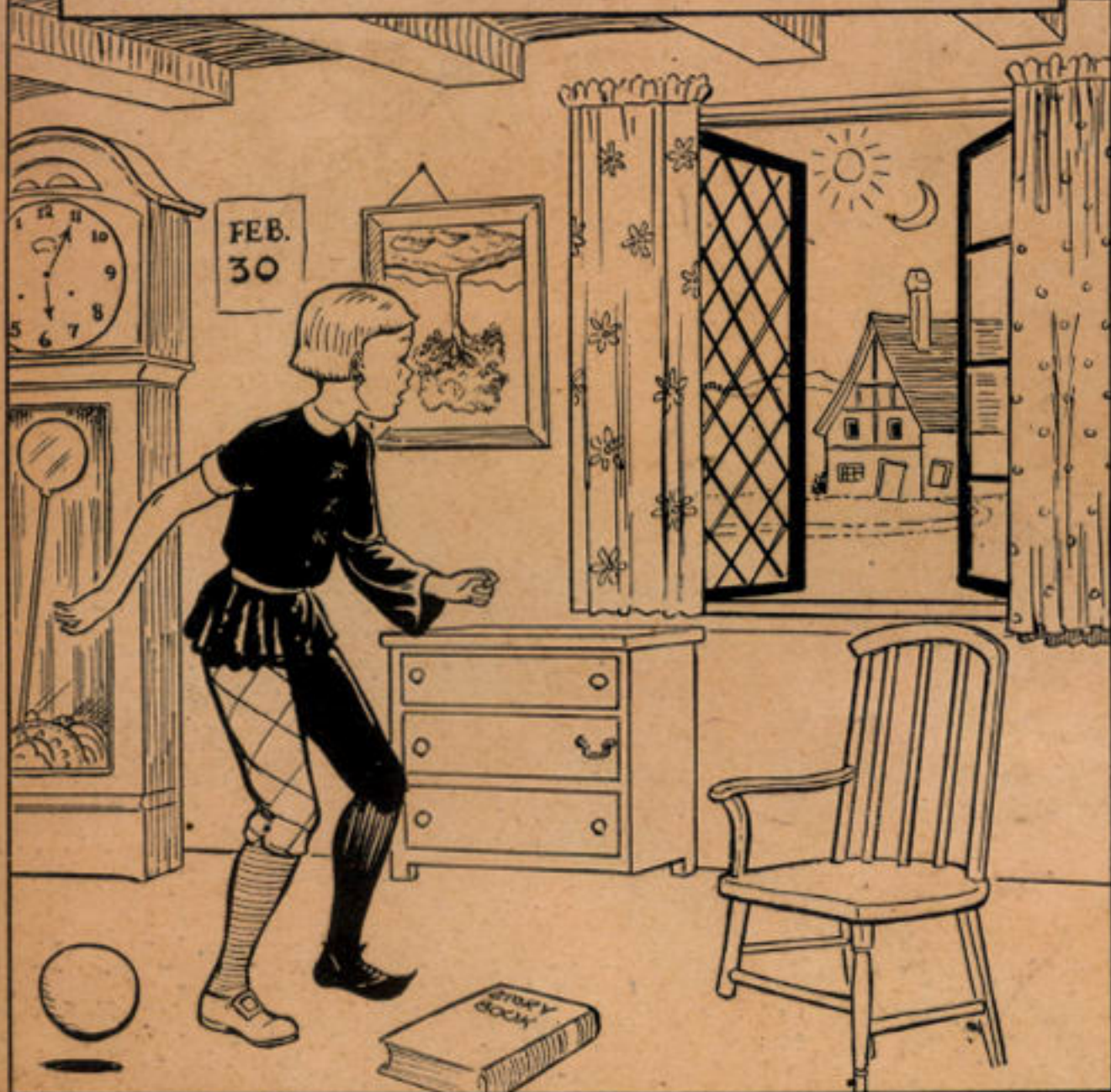
THE OLD BARON WOULD BE PROUD TO SEE HOW WELL YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR DUTIES! YOU ARE LOVED BY ALL SUBJECTS, BARON!

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR WISE ADVICE, DEAR OLD FRIEND! BY THE WAY, SOOTY IS STILL MY NAME!

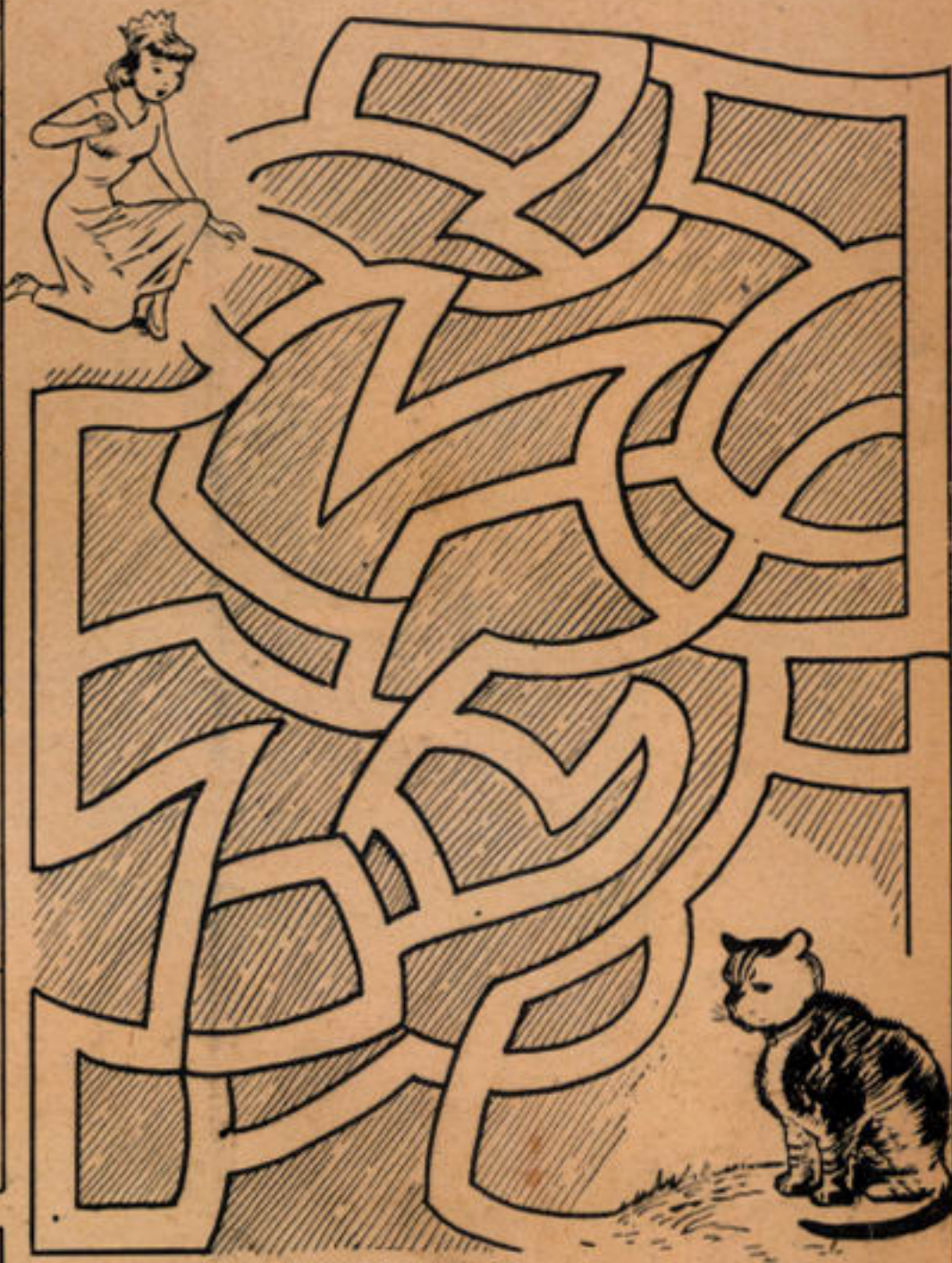
The End

Puzzle Page

1 THE YOUNG PRINCE ENTERS A STRANGE ROOM IN THE CASTLE WHERE QUITE A FEW THINGS SEEM TO BE WRONG! CAN YOU FIND THE MISTAKES?



2 THE PRINCESS' KITTEN HAS STRAYED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MAZE! CAN YOU SHOW THE PRINCESS HOW TO GET TO THE KITTY?



3 IN THIS SCENE ARE MANY OBJECTS BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER "B". SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN NAME! 15 IS GOOD; 20, EXCELLENT; 25 OR MORE, SUPERIOR!

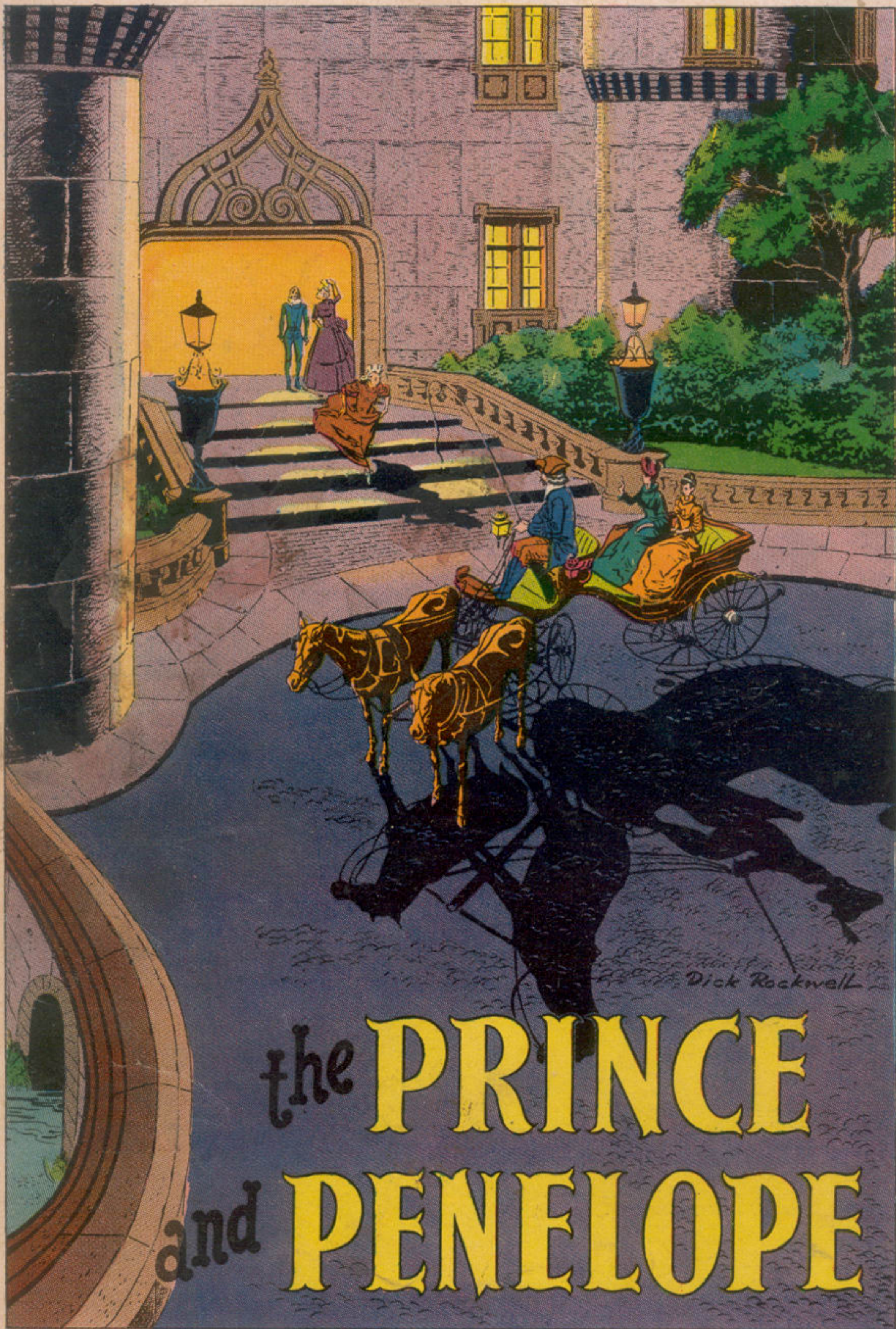


4 THE KING'S HEAD COOK THINKS HE HEARS MICE IN THE PANTRY, BUT THEY'VE ALL HIDDEN! HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND BEFORE THEY EAT EVERYTHING UP?



ANSWERS:

1. THERE ARE TWENTY-FOUR THINGS WRONG IN THE STRANGE ROOM. NO WONDER THE PRINCE LOOKED ALARMED!
2. YOU CAN REACH THE KITTEN IN NO TIME, BUT NO FAIR JUMPING.
3. THERE ARE THIRTY-THREE OBJECTS BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER "B".
4. THE POOR COOK! THERE WERE FIVE MICE HIDDEN IN THE KITCHEN!



the **PRINCE**
and **PENELOPE**